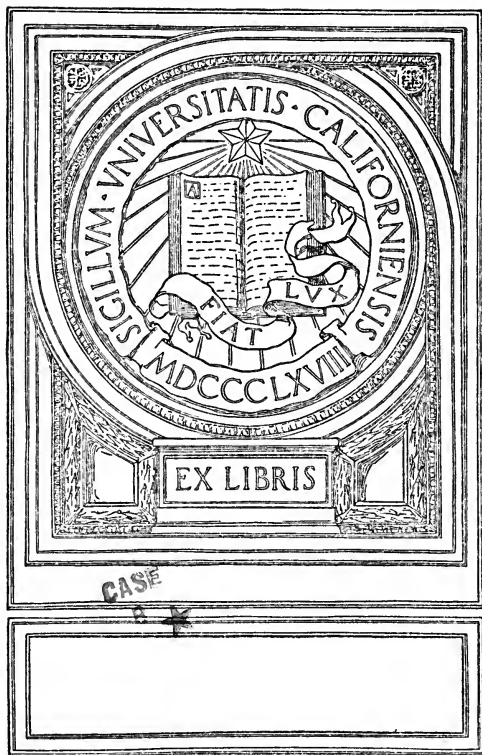


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Adsonville.

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ADSONVILLE:

OR

MARRYING OUT.



A NARRATIVE TALE.



" Oh! LOVE no habitant of earth thou art—
" An unseen seraph, we believe in thee;
" A Faith, whose Martyrs are the broken heart;
" But never yet hath seen, nor e'er shall see
" The naked eye, thy form, as it should be :
" The mind hath made thee, as it peopled Heaven,
" Even with its own desiring phantasy,
" And to a thought, such shape and image given,
" As haunts the unquenched soul—parch'd—wearied—wrung
and riven."
Byron.



ALBANY:

PUBLISHED BY S. SHAW, No. 47, STATE-STREET,

J. C. JOHNSON, PRINTER.



1824.

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BYRON.

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RICHARD R. LANSING,
Clerk of the Northern District of New-York.

PREFACE.

THE following Tale was mostly written, whilst the Author had extreme youth to plead in extenuation of its faults : since it has, by some particular friends, been earnestly requested for publication, some additions have been made, in which, it is probable, some chronogrammatical incongruities may strike the reader. The writer has not the vanity to fear that it will be considered of sufficient consequence to affect the character of American literature, as he has no prospect of setting up for an Author ; and he most faithfully promises, if this shall pass with impunity, to sin no more.

With regard to the morality of writing or reading works of imagination, the author has been also under some doubts ; but as the principle of philanthropy must commence its expanding influence in the heart, by breaking up the disposition which contracts all its interest upon self, and as these characters are inaccessible to moral lectures, and to the claims of real and passing events, if ever they come to

know the happiness of being carried beyond the range of emotion within themselves, and elevated to a perception of grandeur and beauty, which, there, they must forever have remained strangers to, it must be by being taken at unawares by romantic pictures of fictitious suffering, of ideal beauty, and disinterested heroism ; very inferior, indeed, to that sympathy which inspires real self-sacrifice, but better far than wholly to be ignorant of the joy of natural tears. “ If novels (says a writer in the New Monthly Magazine, to whom I am indebted for some of the preceding ideas) are not the deepest teachers of humanity, they have, at least, the widest range. They lend to genius “ lighter wings to fly.” They are read where Milton and Shakspeare are only talked of, and even where their names are never heard. They nestle gently beneath the covers of unconscious sofas ; are read by fair and glistening eyes, in moments snatched from repose ; and beneath counters and shop-boards, minister delights, secret, sweet and precious. It is possible that in particular instances their effects may be baneful ; but, on the whole, we are persuaded they are good.

The world is not in danger of becoming too romantic. The golden threads of poesy are not too thickly or too closely interwoven with the ordinary web of existence. Sympathy is the first great lesson which man should learn. It will be ill for him if he proceed no farther; if his emotions are but excited to roll back on his heart, and to be fostered in luxurious quiet. But unless he learns to feel tenderly and deeply for things in which he has no personal interest, he can achieve nothing generous or noble. This lesson is in reality the moral of all excellent romances. How mistaken are those miserable reasoners who object to them as giving false pictures of life—of purity too glossy and ethereal—of friendship too deep and confiding—of love which does not shrink at the approach of ill, but “looks on tempests and is never shaken,” because with these the world too rarely blossoms! Were these things visionary and unreal, who would break the spell, and bid the delicious enchantment vanish? The soul will not be the worse for believing that the highest excellence is within the reach of its exertions, but these things are not unreal; they are

shadows indeed, in themselves, but they are shadows cast from objects stately, grand and eternal. Man can never imagine that which has no foundation in his nature."

The above quotation is made, not because it applies in this particular place, in a Preface to a Work which scarcely makes a feeble effort to soar above the most ordinary probabilities, and the ruggedness of which is unsmoothed by either distance of time or place; but because this Book, if read at all, will be read by those who have not been in the habit of indulging their intellectual appetite with such kind of stimuli.

ERRATA.—In consequence of the Author's being unable to attend to the correction of the proofs. several mistakes have escaped the notice of the Printer, amongst which are the following :

Page 11, line 7, for *fixed* read *fired*—page 63, fifth line from the bottom, for *blunted* read *blinked*—page 106, line 21, for *worship* read *courtship*—page 130, line 1, for *sublimier* read *sublunar*—page 280, 7th line from the bottom, for *pride* read *priz*.

The Mottos to the Chapters are all quoted; but having been done before it was thought of publishing, to some of them no name was affixed, and it cannot now be recollected from whence they were selected.

ADSONVILLE.

CHAPTER I.

For sore dismay'd, thro' storm and shade,
His child he did discover ;
One lovely arm she reach'd for aid,
And one was 'round her lover.

Lord Ullin's Daughter.

AS the sun was sinking behind the western mountains, from beyond which the distant thunder was faintly heard to roll, Edgar was gently wafted up a narrow inlet to one of the western Lakes ; on one side the wearied hay-makers had leaned their implements against the hay-cocks, which were scattered over the grassy plain, and stood contemplating the beauty of the boat, and on the advantages of those who followed mercantile speculations, over such as were compelled to a continued course of labor to maintain a moderate, though regular subsistence. On the other side, he was passing the ornamented grounds of Adsonville, the Mansion of which was situated immediately on the lake shore. A stately grove of tall evergreens was thickly interspersed with wild grape vines, which suspended on the boughs of the red thorn, formed arcades not the less delightful for being formed by the fanciful hand of nature : before him, in view, was the busy site of the Stores and Mills of his father, from whence he had retreated for a few hours of that relaxation, which fishing

and fowling affords to those, who naturally volatile, are confined to the limits of a counting room, and application to business. He was aroused from a thoughtful mood, into which he had fallen, by the barking of his dog on shore—and was recovering his fowling-piece, when his little brother, perceiving his absence of mind, said, “it is a lady:” Edgar saw that it was, and the subject of his present meditations; upon which sheering in, he leapt on shore, leaving the care of the boat to his brother, who though extremely young for such a charge, had often proved his dexterity in the management of it. Caroline had just forced her attention from a book which she held in her hand, and discovered it was time to return to the house; when she was accosted by Edgar, with evidently more embarrassment than she had ever before discovered in his deportment; which had the effect to produce the same awkward sensations in herself. “I thought,” said he, “I had something which I would not miss the present opportunity of saying to thee, I came on shore for that purpose, but now for my life I cannot, I do not know how to do it.

“It is a pity,” said Caroline, “that you have forgotten your errand; it could not then have been of great importance.”

“I have not forgotten it;” replied he, hastily, nor can I ever forget it! but I cannot find words to express it, nor do I need them Caroline: it is something which is more faithfully communicated by any other medium; that love which needs the profession of words, is to be suspected. I cannot tell

you my errand, but you may easily judge by my looks and actions."

Caroline did not believe he was serious, but supposing he had merely designed to entertain her with a little coquetry, replied, "I perceive, sir, indeed, some mighty secret is working within your breast; and as you say there is no danger of your forgetting it, I advise you to take time for consideration, and procure terms adequate to express it. I would not undertake to judge of a person's sentiments by any thing short of plain words in the English language; for although they may be false, on the other hand, how liable are we to put a false estimate on actions, and always such an one as our inclination and wishes on the one hand, or our prejudices on the other, shall dictate."

During this conversation they were proceeding slowly towards the mansion of Adsonville, and met Caroline's parents, who were enjoying an evening walk. A slight degree of surprise with them, and a little embarrassment on the part of their daughter, was evident, and it was perhaps the first time that the probability of a connexion between Edgar and Caroline ever entered their minds.

By the time they arrived at the yard gate, the wind had attained an alarming force; the tall poplars bent and withered before it with the most sublime grandeur and astonishing elasticity:—a dark and heavy cloud was furiously descending from the hills, its uneven and ragged skirts indicated more of wind than rain, and threatened to sweep with the besom of

destruction: with the utmost consternation Edgar now perceived that the boat with his brother was driven back, and making rapid advances towards the broad part of the lake, where the winds, waves and clouds seemed to have forgotten they were ever separated, and were now intermingled in tumultuous contention. He obeyed the first impulse of his mind, to deliver his brother from the peril, to which his own neglect had exposed him, or to perish in the daring attempt. Mr. Adson's doorway terminated in a wharf, along side of which lay a small pleasure yacht, with her sails hoisted and now flapping loosely and violently in the increasing wind: into this he immediately sprang, and, having loosed the stern fast, went forward to clear the bows, which having also accomplished, and returning by the mast, perceived at the same moment, that Caroline was on board, and that the boat had shot from the shore and was under the uncontrollable influence of the wind; struck with all the reality of her danger, he was for a moment petrified with horror, but recollecting himself he took a seat by her side, saying, Caroline, my dear lost Caroline, how came you on board; I would give my life freely, I would die happy, if you were on shore. She had not the power of speech, but directed her eyes towards the delightful place she had so unexpectedly changed for her present situation of imminent peril, if not certain death. When she had discovered Edgar's intention of embarking in a hurricane, she ran down to dissuade him from his rash purpose, as she knew

the boat, which was new, had been condemned as too crank or unstable to bear the wind, and fearing from the noise of the wind she should not be heard, and not supposing the boat was detached from the shore, she had stepped into the stern part, and thus exposed herself to the danger it was her intention to save him from.

'Twilight had now half drawn her curtain over the tragic scene; yet at intervals, when they were balanced on the summit of a wave, she fancied she could discern her parents, and conceived something of the distraction and agony they must endure, in the sudden and almost certain loss of their only child: then convulsively clasping Edgar in her arms, she laid her head in despair on his breast, and closed her eyes, saying, "the next wave will overwhelm us for ever; you might still escape if it were not for me, you might cling to the boat, and eventually be driven on some shore and be saved: you must push me off, I cannot command my nerves." "Push thee off! gracious Heaven!" cried Edgar, "I will never go on shore, never be saved without thee: it would be worse than a thousand deaths! by all that's good, hold to me, we shall both be saved, there is no doubt of it." Notwithstanding he thus encouraged her, his own apprehensions were by no means lessened. He had let the sails run, but without coming completely down, with the violence of the gale they bloated and held almost as much wind as if up, and every attempt to put the boat's head to the wind was fruitless, and threatened an immediate foundering.

Caroline raised her head and directed her eyes towards the receding shore ; the distant light at Adsonville threw its bright rays across the enraged water, tipping the waves with a melancholy gilding ; the association of surrounding peril, with the thoughts of the consequences to her parents of her loss, which seemed inevitable, was too much for her fortitude or constitution to sustain ; it overpowered her vital functions and suspended animation, her arms fell from the position which fear, overcoming the most delicate modesty, had induced them to assume, and she sunk insensible on the seat and railing. He caught her in his arms, and called earnestly to her ; but alas, the name of Caroline, with all the tender epithets accompanying it, only mingled with the storm, it was scarcely heard by his own ears ; and Caroline was now not only insensible to them, but to all her own dangers. Edgar was distracted with the idea that she had already expired with terror and apprehension ; the darkness of Egypt hid her countenance from him, as she lay supine and helpless in his arms ; he applied his lips to hers to discover if she breathed, and imagining she did not, he thought no more of other dangers, a sensation of weakness struck through his frame, his heart beat vehemently ; she's dead, he cried, gone forever ! then giving a wild stare at the tumultuous elements, whose fury seemed at this moment to be at the highest pitch, he let go the helm by which he had kept the boat before the wind, and prevented her filling, saying, welcome death, I will not return with-

out her; if I cannot have the satisfaction of restoring her alive to her friends, I will never witness their distress nor suffer my own; I will prefer to be united to her in death. No longer balanced by her rudder, the boat broached round, with her beam to the wind, which caused the white caps to break in showers over them. Edgar concluded that she would instantly fill and sink with the weight of cast iron placed in her keel for ballast; and kneeling down, with indescribable emotions, he rivetted the unfortunate, and never before insensible Caroline in his arms, in the hope that the struggles of death would so confirm his grasp, that if their bodies were ever found, they should bear this testimony of his dying attachment; but the water which fell upon Caroline's face, recovering her from her fainting fit, she gently raised her hand, and made a feeble effort to separate herself from him. "Heaven be praised, she lives!" he cried, with ecstasy, and the next instant had the satisfaction of hearing her voice. "Where am I, who is with me? Oh, is it possible I am here!" At the first intimation of returning life in Caroline, Edgar had put the helm up, and again got the boat before the wind, and perceiving she had shipped but a small quantity of water, he conceived the most sanguine hopes of escape: placing Caroline in as safe a position as possible, he infused into her a degree of the same cheering hope: at his request she firmly held the tiller in the position he directed her, whilst he went forwards to get stoppers on the sails, and prevent their holding so

much wind : she expressed some apprehension of danger to him, in the undertaking, from the darkness and motion of the light vessel ; but upon his assuring her that on her account he would run no risk, whether he accomplished his purpose or not, she at last consented, and found that employment beguiles the mind of the recollection of either danger or trouble : he groped his way in the dark, and with his knife cut indiscriminately every piece of rigging that came in his way, until the sails were blown away in the gale, or thrown overboard with his own hands ; then resuming his seat by the side of Caroline, he assured her that all fear as to their ultimate safety was at an end, although they still continued their terrifying undulations until the struggle was over, and Boreas had whistled his final note ; and the last blast had passed over their heads, died on the waves, and sunk in the bosom of the lake ; nature returned to her level, and the agitated waters were soothed to rest by their own gravity ; the retreating gust was now rending the tall pines of the unsettled forest, and the unsocial beasts of prey, and fierce prowlers of the wood, were cowering in their dens to the more terrific power of the invisible element. Edgar now either was, or feigned himself, all spirits, and made light of their situation to assist in raising Caroline's, reminding her that she must expect to be frequently rallied on her gallant and extraordinary pleasure sail.

“ If it does not, or has not already proved fatal to my mother,” said she, “ I shall value

but lightly either sufferings or rallying—but where are we?” she continued, “what is that I have seen for some minutes? it cannot be an illusion of my eyes, yet it has every appearance of a ghost;” and as she spake this, she shrunk back with feigned apprehension, though partaking something of real surprise. Edgar, from his education and habit of thinking, had less fear of danger from ghosts than almost any other source of evil; but he saw now what so nearly resembled the description of one that he could scarcely believe his own eyes. “Perhaps,” whispered Caroline, “they are in the habit of walking on the water after such a storm.” “If they do not conjure up another,” he replied, “I do not care for them.”

He was about addressing it in this character, when he perceived by a slight jar of the boat that they had come in contact with something more tangible than a visionary form, and that the object which had excited their surprise was a white sail. “What boat is that?” said Edgar. “It’s me!” answered his brother, “how came you here, Edgar?”

Edgar. I came after thee.

William. I saw the Adsonville new boat come out, with her sails up, and supposed she had been left carelessly, or parted her fasts, I had no idea that any person was on board of her. I had my sails stowed away in time, and rode out the gale in safety; and have now got them up again, but have no wind, and if I had I cannot tell until day-break which way to steer. Why what a horse that boat is to carry

to such a snorter, I thought they said she would not bear a wind that would blow a candle out.

Caroline. Why, William, you are quite a sailor; do you know where we are?

At hearing a lady's voice with Edgar, William's surprise greatly increased, so that instead of answering her, he blessed himself, and was mute with astonishment.

"Where think we are, William?" said Edgar.

William. Close in upon shore here, but what land it is I cannot tell. I have heard the wolves howl, and think I discern the tops of trees within a few rods.

The land soon became visible to the whole party: by means of oars they put the boats under some headway, and in a few moments a gentle reversion of their motion indicated that they had reached it. In an instant William was on shore, and taking the painters of both boats, fastened them to a tree.

Caroline expressed some fear of going on shore; but as Edgar's fowling piece was in his own boat, he dispelled her apprehensions, and as fortunately his box coat was also at hand, he spread it on a rock for Caroline to seat herself—and as no considerable effort towards returning could be made before day-break, he seated himself by the side of his charming companion, with his gun in his hands, endeavoring by his cheerfulness to keep up her spirits and make the lingering moments pass with more celerity. William's active temper kept him constantly beating about in the neighboring

bushes until he was driven in by something which appeared of a formidable size, making towards him with indecisive indications of hostility. On discovering his alarm, Edgar advanced towards the rustling sound, and catching a glimpse of a pair of large and glaring eye balls, instantly fixed in that direction. The light flash of the gun and its loud report in the stillness of night, with the thoughts of being in danger from wild beasts, terrified Caroline, but did not destroy her presence of mind: seizing William by the arm, she cried "lead me to the boat;" this was quickly done, and finding herself safe, she called aloud to Edgar, who, listening to the sound of the retreating enemy, did not answer the first call, which made her repeat it in a frantic voice; when he satisfied her he was safe, but that his game had escaped; he then joined them in the boat, and his presence had become necessary to support the trembling Caroline, whose momentary fortitude seemed now to have forsaken her.

The sombre shades of night gradually retreated to the western horizon, and day-light shed her welcome radiance over the waters, and wilderness, that surrounded the bewildered voyagers. The winds were hushed or fled, and the lake ceased to heave with the agitation of the storm; its distant shores were hidden from their view by a dense fog, which made it appear like the margin of an immense ocean. The heavens were filled with low and portentous clouds, that threatened every moment to dissolve upon their unsheltered

heads. Caroline was dressed in a silk frock, as she had passed the preceding afternoon; but the fury of the wind had despoiled her neck of its frail covering, and her head of its turtle shell, leaving her long yellowish hair floating in wild luxuriance over her neck and shoulders, adding to her exquisite beauty a tender and voluptuous appearance.

Edgar had been a small distance on the beach, with his mind closely intent upon the means of return or shelter from the impending rain, when turning suddenly towards Caroline, her lovely though maniacal figure, in her present dishabille, had such effect upon his imagination, that forgetting every thing else, he advanced towards her with extatic exclamation of admiration. Caroline's eyes and countenance brightened with reciprocal emotion, concluding that Edgar's sudden elevation proceeded from some favorable discovery in regard to their situation; but when she found his rhapsody ending with encomiums on her loveliness and comparing her appearance with that of Eve in Paradise, she was filled with chagrin and disappointment, and could not avoid replying that his compliments were both improperly timed and applied.

Edgar immediately perceived that their case called for some immediate expedient, but what it should be, he was unable to determine. No sign or vestige of human inhabitants was in their rear, and a vast lake, like an inland sea in front, to remain where they were was impossible without a roof, without fire or provision through a rainy day and night, which

in all probability would precede a clear sky : and to embark on the lake was to steer entirely at uncertainty, whilst their prospect was confined to a few yards around them ; nor could they make any headway, excepting by laborious efforts at the oars ; and the danger in such unsettled weather of another gale, added to their perplexity. Edgar felt that if Caroline was at home, he could even take pleasure in what now almost distracted his mind. When she asked him what they should do, he could say no more, than that if she were safely at home, he should be at no loss : “ danger,” says he, “ there is none from any quarter ; but how shall I secure you from the rain until the clouds break away, and the wind breeze up, then we can steer for some other land ; which must be visible, or for some vessel capable of affording accommodations more suitable than these boats.”

Whilst turning these chances in their minds, they simultaneously listened, and looked each other in the face, until they were satisfied that they faintly heard the sound of a distant axe. When they were satisfied it was no illusion, it opened a door through which a ray of hope darted in and lightened up their hearts.

Edgar proposed to his companions to remain where they were, whilst he proceeded to explore the forest in the direction from which they imagined the sound had proceeded : but they decidedly chose to accompany him. He then persuaded Caroline to put on his overcoat ; and with his gun marched in front, whilst Caroline, taking William by the hand,

kept within reaching distance of him. After proceeding some distance, they again caught the sound of a few strokes of an axe evidently nearer to them, which, although they yet knew nothing of the reception they should meet with, or the hands they should fall into, sounded to them more delightful than the music of the spheres.

The trees were large, and the spaces between unencumbered with small shrubbery; but their progress was considerably impeded by large trees in different stages of decay, which had fallen by the insidious hand of time, or been prostrated by tornadoes. Over these, and sometimes walking on them the length of their huge trunks, they proceeded up an ascent from the water to a ridge, the other side of which descended into a valley as low as the surface of the lake. The sound of the axe was now no more heard; but to compensate for this they fell into a path, which after continuing for some time on the bank, turned directly down through a cluster of very compact, small trees, the boughs of which closed and intermingled over their heads, almost shutting out the light of day: it appeared almost like the descent into Symmes' newly discovered interior world. Caroline expressed some apprehensions about following it further, but was easily persuaded to proceed; and their courage was again very soon raised by emerging from this secluded descent into a beautiful valley, the dimensions of which were small and easily discernible. Much of the timber had been fallen by the axe, without

the land having been cultivated; some exceedingly tall pines were still left standing with their tops literally lost in the clouds. "Here, within these hills, if at all, we shall find inhabitants," said Edgar; "I think I can discover a smoke, it lays on the tops of the bushes, and floats along the surface of the earth. The humidity of the atmosphere is so attracted by the near approach of the clouds that the air below and near the earth, is specifically lighter than smoke, and it is a certain indication of rain.

With hope and apprehension at the highest pitch, they proceeded. Edgar felt so confident of finding a hut or cabin for present relief and information, which should open their way for their return home, that he indulged himself in some pleasantry on Caroline's appearance, and on the mortification she must undergo, in making her debut into even a log hut in such an unfashionable and uncouth costume. Although Caroline was sufficiently sensible of her ludicrous appearance, yet her heart was not enough at ease; and her apprehensions too dreadful to permit her to partake of any thing bordering on levity or facetiousness. The long and thrilling cry of the tree toad grated loud on their ears; whilst the disconsolate moans of the turtle-dove, added to the loveliness of the surrounding hills, which appeared like abutments to the arch of heavy clouds, that continued shifting in detached scuds their relative positions, like regiments and brigades of an army when manœuvring or forming the line for battle.

The feelings of the party grew more acute, as they approached the moment that should decide their success ; for they had already determined that if they found not inhabitants within the circumjacent hills, they would return to their boats, and in rain or sunshine, await the first wind that should offer to waft them from a shore, which, although it needed but the cultivation and industry of man to make it a garden, was now totally incompetent to administer relief to their necessities.

Whilst engaged in this council, they were agreeably accosted by the barking of a small dog, which had met them in their path, and whose noise proceeded apparently more from exultation, than offence at the approach of visitors. This was the certain harbinger of success, and it quite elevated Caroline for the moment. " Here, come here, my little Penny," said she, " you are no wild beast of the wood, you have rational beings for your companions." The whiffet led the way, by slow retreats before them, occasionally standing crossways of his path, and barking carelessly, with his tail forming a complete circle over his back, until a small log hut, covered with repeated layings of slips of bark, and accommodated with a door and a four light window in front, situated on the banks of a small stream, which appeared to set back from the lake, through the west end of the valley, where a chasm for that purpose was now discoverable. This channel was margined with such thick clusters of willow and other bushes, that it was completely hidden, except immediately in front of the house,

where they had been cut away, and exhibited not only a still, narrow channel, but a log canoe, fastened to the shore and floating on its bosom.

The next object that attracted their attention, was an old man bearing the appearance of penury and misfortune, leisurely piling some faggots of wood in his arms; he raised up, and was proceeding with careful steps to his cottage door, when he perceived the approach of his unexpected visitors, his arms suddenly relaxed, and their burden tumbled at his feet: he proceeded with terrified looks and hasty steps within his cabin door, which he fastened upon them. Edgar rapped and requested admittance; he received for answer, to his great surprise, that if he entered it would be at the peril of his life. This was a thunder-stroke to Caroline, and she tremulously desired Edgar not to urge them any further. He remonstrated with him upon his inhospitable and absurd conduct, and assured him they only sought a temporary shelter from the impending storm. But the wary old man replied, that he well knew their errand, and that he never would be ejected but with the loss of his life; that let the island belong to which nation, or to whomsoever it did, he injured or molested nobody, by occupying where he did, and to be compelled to abandon it, and be thrown upon an ungrateful and dishonest world, had more terrors to him, than any consequences which might accrue from defending himself in this castle, his last remaining citadel in the world. This explanation was inex-

plicable to Edgar, and he again stated that they had been driven on the coast in a pleasure boat, and were entirely unconscious what land they had made, or where they were.—“A great deal of wind, I guess,” replied the incredulous and cautious old man, in a sarcastic tone : which reply, together with the consideration of Caroline’s situation, as the large drops began to fall, produced some intemperate expressions from Edgar, who declared that before he would be kept out in the rain by an old fool, he would certainly break in, instantly, in defiance of his paltry threats ; he then heard some one within speaking, and heard the old man reply, why then do they come armed ? upon which he precipitated his fowling piece, butt end foremost through the window, saying “if you are afraid of my arms, take them, you have the whole, now let us in.” The old lady was just advancing towards the window to reconnoitre ; but luckily the gun missed her and fell upon the floor.—This movement, however, was so sudden and unexpected, that for the instant they supposed it to be the commencement of a charge ; but a moment’s reflection was sufficient to discover to them its pacific and confidential nature : and the old lady resolutely advanced and opened the door, and invited them to walk in, saying, “you are welcome to a shelter and to all the hospitality our house can afford.” The old man had not formally consented to the capitulation, but stood in a posture of defence with his gun in his hands ; but Edgar, after thanking the old lady, advanced to her

husband with such a frank smile on his countenance, as effectually banished every suspicion of hostility from his mind; especially when Caroline, laying aside Edgar's hat and coat, they perceived she was a lady; her genteel appearance and uncommon beauty, set off by the uncontrolled luxuriance of her hair, and her expressive countenance, as her keen blue eyes, with a little of the languor of melancholy composure, turned alternately on her host and hostess, studying their physiognomy, and in that her fate, caused them from the extreme of terror and suspicion almost to believe, that heaven had at last pitied their adverse fortunes, and sent an angel to their relief.

The cottage fronted the south, and the fire place unconnected by jambs ranged across the west end; the one room of which it consisted was unencumbered with useless furniture; what there was appeared to be the proceeds of their own ingenuity. The old lady kindly offered such refreshments as she had, which consisted of whortleberries, new potatoes, and smoked venison. William, remembering that in the locker of the sail boat had been left some refreshments, by a party of pleasure who had recently taken a sail with it, seized a hand basket, and started out, although the rain fell in torrents. Caroline perceived his intention too late to prevent him from exposing himself, although she stood in the door some time with anxiety for his safety, fearing he would lose himself in the wood, or suffer by exposure to the excessive rain. She was soon, however,

relieved from this and a still greater weight, by his return, and the pleasing intelligence which he brought. "Our sloop," says he, "the Angeline lays at anchor a few rods from the shore; her sails are snugly stowed away, her decks are washed clean with the rain, and as she rides at anchor, she looks most beautifully. I hailed her several times without being heard, and at last I bombarded her with stones with such effect as to break one of the lights of her cabin windows; this brought the cook upon deck, who said that the captain and hands, having discovered the sail boats, and seeing nothing of you, had gone with a boat round the point, to a sloop at anchor, on board of which they hoped to find you; when they return they will come ashore for you: I let him know we were in a snug harbour, and that when it stopped raining we would come on board."

Caroline was, as may be supposed, much exhilarated with this intelligence, and pleased with William's intrepidity, she endeavoured, with the old lady, to assist him in drying his clothes, which were thoroughly soaked, and they both urged him to drink some of the liquor he had brought from the boat, but the bashful boy shifted his position from one corner to the other to avoid their importunities.

Breakfast was prepared in as neat a manner as their accommodations would admit of. Edgar pressed the old people to make free with his brandy, crackers, cigars, &c. They all united in pressing Caroline to partake of some refreshment, which she did reluctantly, and without an inclination to it of her own; for

although her own safety was now no question with her, it only permitted her to concentrate all her anxiety on her parents, whose dreadful suspense she easily conceived must be intolerable.

Breakfast being concluded, the old man accepted some of the cigars, but chose to pulverize and inhale their smoke through a short pipe, which had the appearance of having been often honored as a censor for burnt offerings before.

These industrious old people carried on the manufacture of baskets, to the extent they were able to do it by their own labor, which alone they employed in procuring the materials, in the manufacture, and in the transportation of their wares to a market, which was by water in a log canoe. A pile of clean black ash slips for this use was stored away in each corner. The humidity and coolness of the air, although it was yet August, rendered a fire not unpleasant: on one of these heaps William had fallen into a sound sleep; on the other Caroline had seated herself in a reclining position, like an embossment of beauty on a pile of marble, or an angel resting on a fleecy cloud of snowy whiteness. The old lady had put on her black rimmed spectacles; with glasses of the size of a crown piece, which gave her dignified countenance an appearance of additional sanctity, and was leisurely and silently plying her knitting pins; the old man her husband was seated directly before the fire, and the fragrant odour from the short tube, which fumed beneath his nose," rose in

columns to the roof, whilst his thoughtful countenance, as his eyes passed deliberately from Edgar to Caroline, seemed to indicate that his mind was occupied in contrasting their youth and appearance of wealth, with his age and penury : or perhaps his recollection was cast back to days when prosperity spread her golden wings over his head, and shielded him from the storms of adversity, and on his subsequent disappointments and misfortunes. Whatever his cogitations were, he was permitted to enjoy them undisturbed ; for within, all was silence ; without the rain fell steadily and sonorously on the roof. Caroline lay reclined on her sofa of ash ribbons, her eyes, through the medium of the little window, fixed upon the slanting sheets of watery vapour, as they successively passed between the window and the opposite hills, and wound the tall pines, whose vibrating tops appeared as if struggling for breath in the clouds of heaven : whilst the smoky scuds were successively climbing the sides of the mountains and mingling with the “ waters above the earth ;” her mind had suffered inconceivable terrors, and her body uncommon fatigue, with also the want of sleep ; the stillness of the cottage and all within it, the steady sound of the rain on the roof, and the gentle waving of the forest soothed her agitated mind, her head gently reclined, and sleep, the opiate for a troubled soul, stole softly over her senses. Edgar had watched its approach with much satisfaction ; and now, with delight, his eyes were still rivetted on the undulations of her unsuspecting bosom, where

exalted sentiments, unsullied purity of thought, and angelic innocence held their peaceful dominion. He began to reflect more seriously than ever, whether to insure his future happiness the company and possession of her charms, were not indispensable, and likewise upon the probability of his being able to attain to the possession of them.—His situation in life as to property or respectability presented no obstacles; his fears arose on other grounds; he had been educated in a society of peculiar sentiments and manners, and with religious views and prejudices differing materially from hers, and although this circumstance might not interfere with their happiness at present, whilst the gaiety of youth, like Aaron's rod, swallowed up all other considerations; yet as this state of life is not to last long, educational bias, and prejudices, may return, when settled principles for life are determined upon, and become the occasion of perpetual diversity and debate.

Edgar's parents were Quakers, or as we shall call them, Friends; and Caroline's father was a military man, and although accounted a man of good sense, yet so tenacious of his own opinion, that when he had decided upon a subject, it was generally considered as vain to attempt to bring him to a reconsideration of it, with any view of prevailing upon him to alter his mind: as a military officer, he had always found the Friends, as he conceived, a troublesome obstacle to the organization, number and spirit of his district; their inflexible opposition to military requisitions of any kind,

the tracts which they disseminated of a tendency to beget the same scruples in others, against what he considered not only justifiable, but so long as society existed, indispensable, that of being prepared to defend their country from invasion, and their families from rapine and insult.

The Friends, on the other hand, regarding him as proof against any thing controverting his own views, made but small efforts to convince him of the grounds of their objections to military parade, nor but few overtures of acquaintance. Mr. F. Edgar's father, and Mr. Adson were men who had early settled in this country, and were considered as possessing the largest estates of any within some distance of the place. They sometimes met on public occasions and on business, and conversed in a cold and forced sociability on common subjects, but never in the least approximated to neighborhood intimacy; nor did any of their families, until Edgar and Caroline, having repeatedly met at parties, their mutual vivacity, sentiment and superiority, possessed that attraction which exists throughout nature, between similarities: and no walk, party nor ride was ever with them remarkable for jest, unless they met, and a significant look, observation, or feigned struggle passed between them; when they were invited each accepted with more willingness, because they expected there to meet with the other; if they were disappointed, they endeavored from politeness, to make themselves gay and happy, but if not

constantly on their guard, would relax into thoughtfulness.

These occasions, sometimes brought Edgar under the observation of Caroline's father, who admired his manly figure, easy and polite behaviour, without many compliments, and attentively marked his superiority of general information and intellect, which without being accompanied with ostentation, was still always manifest in his conversation and deportment. He often puzzled himself with the paradox of such capacity existing in connexion, with what he considered the ridiculous prejudices and inconsistent dogmas of Quakerism. The idea of his partiality for Caroline had never crossed his mind, until the evening when, in company with his wife, he met them as before related. Meeting them alone in a retired walk at that time, was, to say the least, unexpected; it did not appear as if it could have been accidental, and he imagined he discovered embarrassment in their countenances. "What an officer," said he, after they were out of hearing, "what a fine officer that young gentleman would have made, if he had had the advantage of an education." Mrs. Adson remarked that she understood there had been no expense spared in his education.

Mr. Adson. "I mean, if he had not sucked in Quakerism with his mother's milk."

Mrs. Adson. "He does not appear to have Quakerism about him, enough to do him either good or hurt."

Mr. Adson. "I suppose no inducement or prospect of advancement would be suffi-

cient to persuade him to accept of an office, either civil or military. The Quakers are almost as adverse to the one as the other. I wonder if they suppose they can do without any kind of government, as well as live without war."

Mrs. Adson. "I apprehend they are not against civil government; but as it is at present, they consider it so bottomed and dependent upon the military, that they cannot, in fact, be considered distinct: to be governor, for instance, is to be *ex officio*, captain-general of the militia."

Mr. Adson. "Come, love, you seem to understand it so well, you lack but little of being a Quaker yourself. If you had a Quaker husband, you would soon have on a drab silk gown."

They were both thinking of Caroline and Edgar in connexion, for the first time; but neither of them thought fit to mention their thoughts, until the approaching gust warned them to return.

Before they reached the yard gate, a servant girl met them wringing her hands, and crying, "Caroline is drowned." The truth of it they could not realize; yet the distraction of her manner made them fear some terrible disaster. They started forwards, and demanded how, where, when! The poor girl pointed wildly at the lake, but could say no more. They caught a glimpse of a sail, and saw their boat was gone. The mystery, and thoughts of her being in the boat in such a tremendous squall, was equal, if not worse, than the

certain knowledge of her death. Mrs. Adson was carried insensible to her room, whilst her husband stood like a statue, with his face immoveably fixed towards the point where the boat disappeared, every passion appearing subservient to that of amazement. The neighbors collected in the yard, enquiring of, and informing each other of what had happened, with low voices and wondering looks, and utterly at a loss to determine upon any rational cause for such a fatal enterprise. That they designed to elope together could not be supposed, as there could be no necessity for such a step; and if there had been, the present moment would not have been chosen, when others more favourable would present at any time; besides, it was well known that neither of them were prepared for such an extraordinary step: Caroline was without a bonnet, nor was any of her clothing missing. And to imagine, on the other hand, that in a violent hurricane they had embarked, merely with a view of daring danger, contradicted every thing they knew of Caroline; and was also very unlikely with Edgar, or indeed any one possessed of reason. No one could imagine the least plausible inducement for such a mysterious and dreadful transaction, by which two of the brightest stars in the constellation of wealth, youth and beauty, were precipitated into almost inevitable destruction; and two of the most distinguished families of the vicinity, suddenly plunged into the utmost depth of consternation and grief, and the whole neighborhood into commiseration and anxious sympathy.

Edgar's parents heard the news with much astonishment, and the most dreadful apprehensions ; but preserved a degree of calmness : they had not, indeed, beheld the fury of the waves, and perhaps could not realize the certainty of their fate.

Mr. F. desired his wife to be composed, and preserve as much as possible the other branches of the family from unavailing panic ; one of his sloops was prepared for sailing ; he ordered a double complement of hands on board, and for them to beat down to the lake, and then stand over to the lee shore, and in the morning search diligently in every bay for the boats ; for whether foundered or not, he knew they would not sink, and must inevitably drive in by the next morning.

Whilst his men were with much alacrity preparing to obey his commands, he walked through the gloom of night to Mr. Adson's yard, where he reclined pensively upon the fence, whilst the unilluminated stillness was only interrupted by the whistling of the wind, and the murmur of the agitated waters ; at length he caught the glimpse of a white sail gliding swiftly by, and had the satisfaction of discovering that the sloop had worked safely through the narrow channel and gained the lake. As she came close in shore, he heard the intrepid captain order, " hard up the helm : " " hard up," the helmsman responded, and immediately the vessel wore, and showed to him the lights in her stern windows. On these he fastened his attention, and with anxious pray-

ers, hopes and forebodings, watched their receding rays until diminishing to mere points, and visible only at intervals, they at last disappeared entirely, as if extinguished in the water.

The gallant vessel, under double reefed sails, ploughed her boisterous march through the inland seas, until before day-break, she lay becalmed within a league of the place, where Edgar and Caroline had made shore; and had it not been for the morning fog, would have been in plain view, which would have saved all parties much anxiety and inconvenience.

The old man had knocked the ashes out of his second pipe, but Edgar had not yet exhausted the subject of his cogitation; nor settled all the difficulties in his mind, when Caroline awaking deliberately, opened her eyes and started up, as if she had forgotten her situation; but recollecting herself, with a smile of resignation, endeavored to adjust her hair: her countenance, excepting that one cheek was reddened by her coarse pillow, plainly indicated the effect that fatigue and anxiety would have on her health. Edgar had observed that their host and his wife had looked knowingly at each other, when they understood whose daughter Caroline was, and whilst she was asleep, the old lady observed to Edgar that Mr. Adson's folks, must feel very bad, if they supposed their daughter was drowned; they had one drowned in the lake a good many years ago, had they not? Edgar studied a few moments and then said, "It

seems to me as if I do remember something of such a circumstance ; it must have been quite a small child." Caroline's awakening prevented any further conversation on that subject.

The old man informed them that they were little more than twenty miles from Adsonville, and that he often went to the village for a market for his baskets, and a few skins, which he got mostly by trapping. He went in one day and returned in another, always observing if there are vessels in sight, to steer as if for some other place : but, generally, said he, I leave before day and return after dark, and run my canoe up this little creek that sets back from the lake, between the hills, and so up before my door. We have spent all our property in the law, and devoted all our attention for twenty years about this island, and have at length lost it ; not that we have lost every clue to make an action lay, but we have no longer the sinews of war to maintain it : but we are determined to keep possession of it so long as we both live ; and in this way, pointing to their basket-stuff, maintain an independence, which in society we cannot. If one of us should die, the other will endeavour to make their way to Dutchess county, where we have relations, who suppose that we have long since paid the debt of nature, and who, we believe, will be willing to receive us, notwithstanding they always predicted that our claim upon the island would terminate as it has, in the ruin and loss of what other little property we had.

Edgar answered him, that they appeared to live very comfortably here. "Why, Caroline," says he, "how delightfully happy we could live here : for whilst it is difficult for Mr. Crusoe to traverse the island, on the account of his age ; it would be to me the highest diversion : and I could get set such splints as those you sit on, and in the evening, whilst I am interweaving of them into baskets, thou couldst read for me by the glowing light of a pine fire."

Caroline blushed, and looked alternately upon each of the company and almost smiled. The old man laughed outright, whilst his wife, with some degree of pleasantry in her countenance kept her eyes on her work, but looked wise, as if she foresaw difficulties that had not entered into Edgar's calculation.

The obscured sun was descending to the western horizon ; the scuds on the sides of the mountain veered to a contrary course, and instead of thickening in the north-west, that quarter exhibited a clear sky, which gradually spread until a few white clouds floated in an ocean of blue ; the sun shone with declining vigour, but with refulgence sufficient to bespangle the humid forest with glittering gems. Our company, with the old man, sallied forth to embark for home. Every inhabitant of the forest was on the alert, and as they passed, a sudden rustling of the bushes with the sound of hoofs, warned them that they had startled a herd of deer ; and at the next step a rabbit with long jumps would double before them ; whilst the grey squirrels chattered on the tops

of the highest trees ; all nature seemed to start into new existence and activity, at the return of serenity to the elements. Under any other circumstances, both Edgar and Caroline would have been delighted to have lingered away their time amidst such scenery : but the report of a musket fired repeatedly in the direction of the lake, warned them that the boatmen were anxious to be underway. Edgar fired his fowling piece to answer them, at which the old man expressed some apprehension of his retreat being discovered. Edgar had before promised to evade giving any information that might lead to the discovery, and also to call occasionally himself to ascertain their situation, as to health,&c. When they arrived at the brink which descended to the water's edge, their guide pointed to the lake, glistening through the vistas of the trees, and wishing them a prosperous voyage home, and through life, they parted, after Caroline had earnestly invited him to call at Adsonville the first time he should go to the village ; to which the old man answered significantly, " you will hear more of me before I die." Edgar then led Caroline down the sloping descent to the shore of the lake, whose expansive bosom gently ruffled by the rising breeze, broke the reflection of the sun's rays, and appeared as if covered with floating diamonds. The main land was visible, but resembled a landscape of undistinguished green : far in the west a white speck was discernible, which Edgar assured Caroline was Adsonville.

A boat was in waiting to take them to the

sloop, which, propelled by the supple oars as they dipped lightly in the water, skimmed over the silvery surface, until it rounded under the gunwale, and Caroline found herself safely on the spacious deck of the Angelina; and the Captain assured her, that by the next morning he would land her safely at Adsonville. "Did you hear how it affected my parents, my mother in particular? what did they think I come off for?"

Capt. "I don't know what they thought you come off for; what the d***l did bring you off?"

Caroline. "Why, could they not once think amidst all their conjectures, that I got into the boat to stop Mr. F. from getting drowned?"

Capt. "So then you shipped for a pilot, did you to save him? ha, ha, ha! no I don't think they once thought of that."

Caroline. "I got into the boat to stop him from rashly venturing out in such a squall."

Capt. "Well, you bettered it much to go with him; but you done well, if we meet with a blow whilst you are on board, I shall give up the command of the sloop to you."

Caroline. "Do you know how my mother sustained the shock; is she alive?"

Capt. "I did not hear any thing but that she was alive, and well. I believe they invented some lie to satisfy her."

"It would be hard satisfying her in that way or any other, under such circumstances," said Caroline to herself, as she retired to the quar-

ter-deck, to be out of the way whilst they were preparing to get under sail.

The white sails gradually climbed the tall mast whilst they flapped loosely in the rising breeze, until she weighed anchor, no longer restraining the vessel's motion, her bows fell away to leeward, and their white bosoms swelled with the propelling gale. Caroline remained on deck, and as they left the shore, the reflection of the water exhibiting an inverted green forest, with the setting sun taking his last bright look from the top of the distant mountain formed a scene of gilded beauty, until its brightness was exchanged for the sober robe of twilight. Edgar had been detained in conversation with the captain until now; turning to Caroline, he made some observations on the beauty of the evening, and the favorable wind which was wafting them to the delightful seat of their social sympathies. He said, "Caroline, I rejoice that thou art about having the extent of thy wishes gratified; thou wilt soon be in the arms of thy parents, and the embraces of thy friends: in that case will there be any secret wish yet unsatisfied, any vacuum in thy mind that shall destroy the full enjoyment of what you possess." She looked at him with unaffected simplicity, and answered "No, I hope not;" and after a pause added, "You are destined to the same happy meeting with your friends, and I hope that is not the case with you."

"Caroline," continued Edgar, "the satisfaction of returning you safely, affords me the highest gratification: that of relieving my pa-

rents and friends from the anxiety they feel on my account, is the next pleasurable sensation: but the enjoyment of company separate from thee, can afford me no happiness. I shall now lose thy company, which alone can compensate for the loss of all other. At home I shall see thee but seldom, and under the restraint of company. How happy have I been since the last evening, though surrounded by peril and filled with anxiety. Oh, Caroline! may I never expect to enjoy such a boon in full fruition, and under happier auspices: has no similar, no correspondent sentiment found a place in thy heart. Am I so unfortunate as not to have inspired similar sentiments in thy untainted bosom?"

Caroline had prudently refused admittance to any passion, which in the least she suspected to be love, towards any person whatever, her near relations and universal philanthropy excepted. In regard to Edgar, she had persuaded herself that the preference she felt for his company, and the secret pleasure she felt when it fell to her lot to be his partner in walks and rides, &c. originated from his superiority over his associates, which being acknowledged by all, could not be special love in her. True, he had given hints before, of what he now so openly avowed; but she never considered them more than unmeaning compliments. She now felt much embarrassed; but was timely relieved by the captain's requesting them to walk below and repose themselves, as he should be under the necessity of

calling them up early to go on shore, it being important for him to make the best of his way on his voyage, whilst the wind was favorable. He shewed Caroline a neat back cabin, and offered Edgar his own state-room. Edgar was anxious to impress Caroline with the ardor and sincerity of his passion, and to draw something from her which should afford to him a ray of hope. This intention, therefore, (although the necessity of it he confessed,) was by no means desirable.

Caroline retired immediately to the cabin assigned her, where, without extinguishing the lamp, she threw herself in the birth, filled with agitating and conflicting reflections. She was, in some degree, soothed by the placid prospect from her window: the new moon shewed its face for a few moments, broken and quivering in the water, and then followed her source of radiance behind the hills. The thoughts of meeting her parents, and how she should account to them for her rash departure; her fears for the effects it had already had upon them; the recollections of the scene she had passed through the preceding night, and Edgar's last protestations, crowded alternately into her mind. The last subject she fain would have put to rest, but could not help casting a glance at the difficulties that might interfere, to prevent his happiness so far as it was dependent on what he avowed it to be, and almost wished that *on his account* they were out of the way; but would not admit that she felt any interest in it on her own.

The stars innumerably reflected from the

liquid expanse : the distant howl of the hungry wolves resounding from along the shore : the gentle motion of the vessel, and the constant sound of the water rippling along her sides, overcame the activity of her mental faculties ; her eyes gradually closed upon the faint light of her exhausting lamp, until sweet sleep covered her with the downy mantle of forgetfulness.

There was no such relief for Edgar. After ruminating upon the certain happiness he should enjoy, if Caroline should be the constant companion of his life and sharer of it : his mind again dwelt upon all the circumstances connected with the probability of it, and he saw nothing in the way which appeared insurmountable. “ I am,” says he mentally, “ a birthright member of society, it is true, and belong to the meeting ; but that is not on account of any goodness in me. Although I believe the doctrines and practice of the society are correctly predicated upon the scriptures ; yet I can believe and practice them as well out as in : and if belonging to the meeting, simply of itself, is of any real value as respects salvation, it comes very easily to such as me, who are born members. My parents are so strongly prejudiced in favor of every thing which the society sanctions, and against what it condemns, that they will probably consider it an affliction, until they become acquainted with the lovely Caroline, whose natural goodness cannot be exceeded, and as to religion, I should hope that, at least, she has as much as I have.”

After passing several hours in these kind of waking dreams; and finding it in vain to expect sleep, he arose, and was groping his way upon deck, when he was met by the Captain, who desired him to call upon Caroline to get ready to leave the sloop. He entered her cabin, where by the dim rays of the almost extinguished light, he gazed for a moment on the indistinct form of sleeping beauty, as she lay like an exquisite figure in a shaded ground; he was tempted, like the lover in the Canticles, to awaken her with kisses: but considering her situation, he prudently restrained his inclinations, and taking her by the hand, said, "My dear Caroline, are you able to go on shore? we have got home." "Oh, yes;" she answered earnestly, starting up and looking towards her feet. "Well, then, I bid you farewell," said Edgar. "Why," said she, staring at him in surprise, "are you not going on shore?" "Oh, certainly," said he, "but farewell to thee." She gave him one more look, as if by his countenance, to discover his meaning; but he guarded so as it might bespeak nothing but mystery; which she perceiving took no more notice of it, but hurried with him upon the deck, where there appeared some bustle in getting into the small boat which was to take them on shore.

It was the very moment when day-light was first discoverable by a slight streak along the eastern horizon; the feathered tenants of every barn in the village were engaged in a general competition, very annoying to the rest of

ervants, and straining to their own lungs; the white walls and fences of Adsonville were off against them, and formed a beautiful, and to Caroline, a most delightful prospect.

They were carefully assisted into the boat, and a few dextrous strokes of the oars soon brought them to the very spot, from whence they had in an unexpected moment taken their eventful departure. The young men returned immediately to their vessel; when the main sheet being eased off, they proceeded with a favorable wind for the place of the vessel's original destination. Edgar still intended, as they passed up the walk, to say some tender things to Caroline, expecting probably at such a time, she would confess that which at a more collected moment, she would reserve: but he found her so extremely agitated, as she approached the house, that it would have been impudence in the extreme, to trouble her on any subject; he, therefore, tenderly desired her to be composed, saying, he had always taken her to be a philosopher. She attempted to speak her apprehensions, but could not; and as if to make some acknowledgements to Edgar, for his sympathy, or from actual inability to sustain herself, she fell into his arms. He received the precious burden with more rapture and enthusiasm than did Elisha the mantle of his brother; for in her he embraced all that to him, at this moment, appeared good, lovely or desirable. He said but little, but pressed her lips with ecstasy. This was, perhaps, more than she expected; it restored her to renewed self-exertion, she strug-

gled for release, and demanded how they should enter the house. "Go," said she, "and shake the lightning rod ; -it will awake the servants, without disturbing those who sleep in the other part of the house." This he immediately did, with such violence as soon brought the maid to the window, who put her head out, to discover the cause of its agitation. Edgar called to her in a loud whisper, to come down and let Caroline in. "Caroline, Lord !" said she, letting the window sash descend with its own gravity ; in a moment the door where they stood flew open, and the affectionate girl, (entirely unconscious that in her joy she had forgotten to dress,) clasped Caroline in her arms. Day-light had not so far advanced as to render objects distinctly visible, but Caroline was extremely mortified and surprised at the girl's appearing thus before Edgar : blinded with tears, and tortured with dreadful apprehensions of hearing of some disaster to her parents, she was half induced to laugh herself, as she vainly endeavored to convince the creature to think what she was about ; or by pushing and pulling to escape from her embrace : at length coming to more sober recollection, the girl scampered off to her chamber, and Caroline flew into the room to her parents.

The other branches of the family came one after the other into the hall, enquiring how and when Caroline had come, and waiting for her to make her appearance. Edgar, after satisfying herself that Mr. and Mrs. Adson were in as good health, as could be expected,

took his way up the banks of the Frith, where he first met Caroline. The sun had just flung his golden zone around the horizon, the morning dew drops glittered on every blade, and the flower-enamelled branches over his head teemed with birds of all notes and plumes, each of which appeared ambitious to have his voice distinguished in their morning mattins. Edgar was surprised at the pensiveness of his own mind, whilst surrounded by such a cheering scene; and as he continued his walk every step was plentifully sprinkled with the drops which the startling songsters shook from the elastic boughs; nor could even the prospect of being welcomed home by his near relations and doating friends, afford to his mind a ray of delight, to compensate for the company of her whom he had left behind. I am in love, said he mentally, in spite of all my affected philosophy. (Caroline must be mine.) With me it is decided: but what trifling circumstances may yet be sufficient to prevent it? Must the happiness of my life be dependent on the whim and caprice of others? must the serenity and composure of my mind depend upon, or be liable to be destroyed by contingencies; by such trifles as would be sufficient to obstruct our union,—a suspicion, a whisper, an insignificant tongue of slander may dash the cup from my lips forever. But it shall not be so; I will neglect no opportunity of promoting my happiness; by securing her heart and hand. If I fail in the enterprise, I will not, on that account, pertinaciously renounce every other source of happiness

and surrender myself a self-devoted victim to despair. As he formed this resolution, he insensibly quickened his pace, and when he arrived at home, the whole family pressed around him, with the most unequivocal marks of joy at his safe return. And an abridgment of the account of his voyage, he had to recapitulate to almost every neighbor, who called in, to assure themselves of his safe return.

CHAPTER II.

" Her mind's serenity was lost and gone,
Her eye grew languid and she wept alone."

Bloomfield.

EDGAR'S most intimate friend was a Dr. Hay, a native of the state of Connecticut, who had by his own industry and without the aid of competent funds, managed to procure the necessary education to qualify himself to enter with credit upon the profession of physic. He sustained a regular examination, and had obtained an honorable diploma, accompanied with special recommendations as a moral and studious character; with which equipment about one year before this time, he arrived in the course of his travels, to find a stand for his business, in the village of —. Without much prospect of success, and nearly out of cash, he met Edgar in the street, as the latter happened to be proceeding from the place of his business to dine. Although the doctor was extremely diffident, and above asking a favor of a stranger, yet the spur of his necessities, and the benevolence that he imagined he could discover in Edgar's countenance, en-

couraged him to disclose his situation, and request of him at least his advice ; at the same time, putting into his hands the diploma, and recommendations. Independent of the claims which honest necessity always had upon the heart of Edgar, he was particularly prepossessed in favor of the stranger's countenance, and manner of introducing himself, which evinced, that whilst his heart suffered with discouragement, his face was forbidden to communicate it to others.

Edgar held his diploma in his hand, as if dwelling upon the beauty of the copperplate impression, but in reality with his mind occupied on the situation of the stranger, who had made him the confidant of it. He had often regretted that a press of business had interfered with his opportunity for study, and for the attainment of as much scientific knowledge as he coveted ; and that he had not in time chosen a profession which would have admitted of unlimited study ; and that of physic was the only one which would have been admissible for him, as law and divinity are equally excluded by the Quakers. " It is too late," said he, mentally, " for me now to think of studying it with a view of practising it as a profession, but if I have a liberally educated physician for my friend and companion, I should be in the way of obtaining scraps of information in Botany, Chemistry, &c. which besides the immediate pleasure I shall receive, will in some degree prepare me for the company and conversation of men of science, wherever I shall be so fortunate as to fall in their compa-

ny. "There is," he continued, "something more than ordinary in this young doctor; he does not attempt to prepossess me with a high opinion of his learning by pompous words or technics." The young doctor modestly regarded Edgar's countenance, and saw the smile which when they first met enlivened it, gradually gave way to thoughtfulness, from which he argued but little encouragement. Edgar folded his papers up, and returning them, held his head down as if in a study. He occasionally indulged his reflections so far, as to be accused of absence of mind; of this he was himself sensible, and now in the midst of his consultation what to answer the stranger, he recollected his propensity, and fearing he had detained him longer than he was aware, started up into his usual affability, and taking him familiarly by the arm, said, "Come, go with me to dinner. We will have thy horse taken care of, and thou must stay a week or two with us. Perhaps something may be done here." The doctor held his horse with the bridle over his arm, his whip in his hand, and at this invitation proceeded without hesitation with Edgar, to his father's house; where, his being accompanied by a young man, unknown to the family, excited no surprise, nor would it any enquiry, had not the doctor's appearance, and modest, genteel demeanor, as he successively met the nod of each individual in the room, excited a more than ordinary curiosity, to know who he was. "I don't know, Edgar," said his mother, "as I recollect who this young man is, his countenance appears fa-

miliar to me ; but the young people grow up so fast that I cannot always call their names, when I know their looks, and I am ashamed to let them find that I have forgotten them, lest they should think I am indifferent about them."

Edgar informed his mother that she must be mistaken, in regard to any acquaintance with his looks, as he was a stranger in the place; and a physician looking for a place that should afford sufficient encouragement to induce him to settle.

Mr. F. Edgar's father, entered into conversation with him, enquiring from whence he was, and making observations on the difficulty young men of his, and other professions, experienced before they acquire a reputation for skill, &c. and also on the prospects that their neighborhood offered.

"I have given him," said Edgar, "an invitation to stop with us for a week, if it will produce no inconvenience in the family." His father said he should think well of that, and that he should be welcome to make his house his home. His mother said, it would be perfectly convenient, and also encouraged him to stay. The doctor felt the full weight of the obligation he was under for such seasonable hospitality, and made his acknowledgments in the most suitable manner; and the event has been, that he has ever since continued in the family, no part of which has ever had cause to repent of their kindness, or alter from their first impressions of his character. He pos-

essed a mind naturally philosophic, and considerably enriched by study and reading; but his diffidence prevented him from deriving all the benefit from his qualifications that more confidence would have produced. But gentleness and goodness were so manifest in every situation in which he was placed, that he never failed to gain the love and good will of all his acquaintance. He had now attained considerable celebrity, and was generally acknowledged more of a book man, than any other physician in the place: and as he considered himself altogether indebted to Edgar for his present happy situation, and as the latter found in him every requisite for a faithful friend and instructive companion, this accidental acquaintance was now transformed into the most intimate friendship. During Edgar's late absence, the doctor had suffered much anxiety, lest the apprehensions of his friends should prove too well founded; but like a physician, disguised his fears, and he affected to believe that the chances were altogether in favor of his safety. The morning of Edgar's return, he was absent on a case, but returned in the forepart of the day; and when he was congratulating him on his escape, and listening to his recital, he was accosted by a messenger, who catching his breath in broken respirations, informed him that his presence was wanting immediately at Adsonville. The doctor enquired the occasion of it; but the servant said he did not rightly know, but Miss Caroline, says he, looking at Edgar, has got back, and I believe she is crazy or delirious,

or something else, I don't know what, only they are in a hurry for you to come.

The doctor turned to Edgar, who with looks of astonishment exclaimed, "Crazy, delirious! Heavens, she was well this morning when I left her; perfectly well; but go quickly, do not wait a moment longer, but return as soon as you can leave without detriment to her." In a moment he was out of sight; and Edgar again, inexpressibly tortured by the new disaster to his beloved Caroline; and finding he could not attend to any other subject, walked alone to a grove, where he should meet the doctor on his return, to get the earliest information of the case of his patient. He strove to beguile his impatience by tracing the meandering of a rill, which stole its course around and under the roots of tall pines and gigantic elms, to the bank from whence it leaped into the lake. But the doctor not returning soon enough to satisfy his eager desire to hear from Caroline, he insensibly arrived within a few rods of Adsonville by a different route, from that which led along the banks of the inlet. There he entered an arbor, which he knew was a favorite of Caroline's, where he indulged himself in the melancholy reverie of imagining that she whose delicate hands had led the wild vines over the cooling arch, and planted the morning glories by its sides, was now laboring under the fever of mental derangement, and had visited it for the last time; and had left both them and himself to wither in her absence.— But no, said he, it shall not be so. I shall yet

lead her within these quivering walls, shall listen to the music of her voice, contemplate in her the perfection of heaven's best gift, embrace in her all that imagination can conceive of loveliness and virtue, and be intoxicated with her caresses.

At length he began to reproach himself with such unphilosophical dreaming, and made an effort to walk out, composed, but could not resist the temptation to write with his pencil, the following lines, on the bark of a white birch which grew at the entrance.

Ye vestal spirits, which within this shade,
Watch'd o'er the safety of your kindred maid ;
Whose private hours within these walls were spent,
Her mind on books, and nature's book intent ;
Thus adding knowledge to her native worth,
And charms on charms new springing into birth ;
Fly to her couch, and with your Hygean breath,
Dispel the fev'rish harbinger of death ;
'Round her mild brow, let health with beauty blaze,
And her bright eyes emit their wonted rays ;
Again at blushing morn here let her stray ;
With seraph footsteps brush the dew away ;
And if her wandering eyes this scroll shall trace,
Whilst conscious blushes lighten in her face :
Oh may she know the author of these lines,
Dies with despair, whilst she with sickness pines.

He then proceeded with hasty steps to the house to make enquiry himself of the first person he should meet respecting Caroline's indisposition ; but not meeting with any person, he entered the hall, and appeared as if leisurely perusing some maps suspended on the walls, when a door flew open, and, undiscov-

cred himself, he saw the doctor issue forth, accompanied by a couple of female sages, both of whom were talking to him in a whisper at the same time, while he appeared as if assenting to all their prescriptions: without observing him, they proceeded to the kitchen fire, where each lifted a jar from the coals, which he tasted, and also appeared to approve. Indeed he seemed to nod assent to every thing these kind nurses proposed, and appeared equally disposed on his part to explain to them the nature of the disorder, and the intended operation of his medicines. Edgar had never been sick himself, and seeing the doctor, who was generally reserved, and abhorred quackery, thus complaisant to the old ladies, when he supposed himself acting under their observation only, it made him even forget the occasion of it, so far as to raise a sarcastic smile on his countenance, which the doctor, accidentally raising his eyes, perceived at the same time that he discovered Edgar was present: and feeling something mortified, he determined that Edgar should not enjoy his chagrin: so stalking up to him, he said, "you appear from your levity not to be under much apprehension for your shipmate, but her case is somewhat alarming." Edgar instantly turned pale, if there is any danger he stammered "let me see her, I must see her before—oh heavens, yes, before she dies!"

Doctor. Why, Edgar, are you so easily frightened, I did not say any thing about her dying; there is no danger of that; you must not see her now, however, it would not be

prudent—for either of you now, added he aside, I will return early in the evening and inform you more. He then left him to return to his patient, and Edgar conceiving that his company might be unprofitable or undesirable, proceeded directly home. The last red glow of the western sky was fading, and the lowering gloom and falling dew increased the sullen, unresigned state of mind, he felt disposed to indulge; until he broke forth into murmurs against himself. “What a miserable dupe I am; of what avail now that I need it, is all my philosophy! how often have I resolved to not suffer my composure or happiness to be dependant on another—how often have I mocked the folly of others of imagining that all the perfections of human nature are centered in one individual, and that they must be the fortunate possessor of such a rare prize. I am now alone, I can never take delight in any company, but that of the enchanting Caroline, and aside from her, I must experience a continual depression of spirits, and at all times be liable to be deprived of her forever, if no other way by that ruthless scythe which spares neither youth nor beauty, virtue nor excellence. I must dream no more of her angelic superiority; no longer shut my eyes to the beauty of others, nor slight the charms of their sociability. I must seek to be delivered from the maniacal hallucination which now affects me.

When he entered the door his mother enquired after Caroline, whether she was out of health when he parted with her in the morn-

ing ; to which he answered dejectedly, and in but few words. She noticed his countenance and discovered that he felt deeply interested in her health. It was now two nights since he had taken any repose ; and although he did not feel inclined for sleep, yet as soon as he found himself alone he retired in the dark to his bed, where he waited impatiently for the doctor's return, until he had the satisfaction of hearing his voice below, enquiring for him, he also heard the family eagerly enquiring after Caroline. but could not hear the doctor's reply, as they continued for some time in conversation in too low a voice for him to understand. This increased his alarm ; but at length the doctor entered the room, held the lamp over the bed, and perceiving Edgar to be awake, smiled. " How is Caroline ? " said Edgar. The doctor answered carelessly, as he was laying off his clothes, " I think she'll be likely to get well ; what have you been saying to her ? " " What have I been saying to her ! " said Edgar. " why do you ask that ? " The doctor smiled again significantly, " I said very little to her of consequence," says Edgar again.

Doctor. I think she must consider it of consequence, it seems to run in her head very currently.

Edgar. How did you discover that ?

Doctor. She has been affected with delirium, and spoke frequently of you, and what you said to her.

Edgar. What is it ?

Doctor. It was very disconnected, but sufficiently explicit for us to discover the subject.

Edgar. What was the subject.

Doctor. I suspect you know.

Edgar. I expect I do, but said but very little, not half so much as I wished to say.

Doctor. Sufficient, I guess, for her to understand you.

Edgar. Well, I would like to know the very words: they may be of importance to me; I may gather—but stop, please to let me know just what she said.

Doctor. (*laughing.*) That is impossible, but she asked me if it was true you were drowned; and added, “he said he should prefer it to returning without me.”

Edgar. I see nothing extraordinary in all that. Of course I should not have been willing to have saved my own life, by deserting her, or any other lady; in the situation she was in, in jeopardy through my rashness.

Doctor. But that is not all, she would call you in the most pathetic manner, still maintaining the idea, that you were drowned, and say “Oh Edgar, you declared you could never live without me. Did you think I could survive you? I may as well follow you: you have taken my heart with you—I can think of nothing now but heaven and you.”

Edgar. (*earnestly.*) Did she say that? were her parents present, what did they think of that?

Doctor. Her father looked at me to see if I noticed it. I smiled at it, and remarked

that it was impossible to account for words that proceed from a person in her situation, and that from your having been with her during the extraordinary excitement and fatigue she had passed through, it was not strange that she should associate you with the idea of drowning. I thought I would make some excuse for you, although I knew well enough you had been saying something to her of the nature that she represented it.

Edgar. You did pretty well; but how long is this to continue? will she be sick long dost thou think? or is there danger.

Doctor. No, I think not; but it would have been very extraordinary if she had not, with her constitution of body and mind, felt the effects of such a devil of a route as you had.

They continued their conversation until Edgar perceived by the faintness and drawl of the doctor's voice, that he was sinking into the arms of Morpheus. When left once more to his own reflections he considered of Caroline's situation, of the danger that might accrue to himself from dwelling intently on one subject, and endeavored in vain by every expedient to get a little sleep, until by persisting in counting the tickings of the clock, he induced that vacuity of mind, which permitted sleep to overcome the vigor of his mental faculties, and permitted them to repose in forgetfulness.

Before the dawn of day he awoke with symptoms of a fever, which alarmed him as he considered it the effects of what he endeavoured to convince himself was folly. His

mouth was parched and dry with intolerable thirst: he arose, and throwing on part of his clothes, went out of the house, and drawing up a bucket of cold water from a deep well, he applied his lips to its brim and took in a copious draught, and returning to his bed, a state of profuse perspiration followed, which ward-
ed off or prevented the threatened disorder; but which induced him to repose an hour later than usual. His mother who had heard him up in the night, and remarked his anxiety in regard to Caroline's indisposition, had contrived to meet him alone at breakfast, with a view of sounding him with regard to his sentiments towards her, and to warn him against indulging any hopes which would interfere with his membership in the society he had been educated for.

Edgar soon perceived that her dispositions were for this effect, and when she offered to set by the table and assist him, with a smile he assured her that if any thing else demanded his attention he could with pleasure wait on himself, she replied that if her company would not be disagreeable or her conversation destroy his appetite, she should prefer to be with him.

That, he replied, is impossible, unless I have been guilty of some misdemeanor, and that I cannot accuse myself of, at least any thing that has come to thy knowledge.

Mrs. F. I hope there is nothing of that nature; but there are acts which in themselves are not vile, or wicked, but which on the contrary proceed from the springs in the

human heart ; that in their best effect produce lasting and fruitful sources of unhappiness and perplexity, and which prudence, aside from virtue, will warn us to avoid, and one in particular of this kind is—said she hesitatingly—is

“ Improper matches, or unhappy marriages,” said Edgar, “ is it not ? ”

Mrs. F. But thou canst not realise it at thy age.

Edgar. True, perhaps I cannot, and I am sure I never wish to realise it. I should prefer perpetual ignorance on the subject, but certainly there must be some medium by which to proceed in a case, wherein almost all mankind are necessarily compelled to act.

Mrs. F. Fancy is what generally decides. Young people think there is no doing any thing against Fancy.

Edgar. I think, mother, I should be very loath to marry a person that I could not fancy, but I should be guarded enough to examine what it was grounded upon, I should at least require that she should possess a taste and disposition similar to my own, and a predilection for my own sentiments, and this must be natural, not proceeding from her attachment to me, but as her own peculiar constitution of mind ; in that case our company can never become burdensome to each other, for so long as we love ourselves, we shall necessarily love each other. This is the basis of all true friendship, which is always founded on a similarity of taste and sentiment.

Mrs. F. But supposing thou shouldst awa-

ken from a love delirium, and find thyself connected with habits and sentiments totally different from thine?

Edgar. My only hopes would be in her docility, if by patient perseverance I would bring her to be interested in my own sentiments, and pleased with what pleases me, my object would in part be gained; but never so amply as if it should be her own natural bias. If I failed altogether in producing an assimilation, I should consider my happiness from that channel but partly lost, and endeavor by the most feasible means to prevent it from becoming a source of vexation by resignation and disguised indifference. Now, mother, dost thou think I am in danger from the want of thought on this important subject with these sentiments to guide me.

Mrs. F. I acknowledge they evince more reflection than ordinarily governs young men. But when the passions are enlisted, reason is overpowered and silenced, and whilst we suppose we are acting under the direction of the latter, we are swayed by the influence of the former, and the beloved object will easily appear to possess any qualification, we may deem requisite for our happiness; religious education, habits and principles form the most insurmountable pertinacities in our characters, and above all other considerations those ought to harmonize, as least likely to yield. Thou, for instance, hast been educated a member of a society, from which it is hardly possible to apostatize, and assimilate with any other, and which is characterised by sentiments and habits so

repugnant to the world, that there is rarely an instance of their being laid aside, excepting in an abandonment of all principle, or on the other hand assumed, unless under a real religious concern.

Edgar. That is an evidence of their truth and propriety of which I never doubted.

Mrs. F. That I am glad to hear, and shall not hereafter harbor any fear that thou wilt by *marrying out* of the society forfeit thy birthright.

Edgar. My birthright!

Mrs. F. Thy birthright in the society by which thou enjoyest so many privileges.

Edgar. My birthright in the society with all its privileges, shall be fairly weighed in the scale against what it deprives me of.

Mrs. F. Thy membership will never be found in the scale opposite to thy happiness. I will mention a few particulars that attach to it. The first is, the universal credit which we have for punctuality and honesty; inasmuch, that to be known to be a member in unity, is a sufficient recommendation to one's word, and even amongst strangers our clothes and language at once lull all suspicion, and inspire confidence and respect; and in cases of necessity assistance of course, and in travelling, at each other's houses we are at home.— And besides these collateral advantages, there are others which apply directly to the mind and morals, which evidently have a characteristic effect upon us as a society: we perseveringly inculcate the principles of peace, and the mortification of those passions from whence

proceed war, cruelty and commotion, which agitate and convulse the political world : and the principles of justice are specially recognized in not permitting our members to be in any way concerned in holding human beings in slavery ; and those of philanthropy in restraining them from dealing in spiritous liquors ; the rejection of novels, plays, &c. cannot be without some favorable effects : but above all, that inimitable establishment of Meetings, or as our eulogist Clarkson calls them, courts of discipline ; wherein the concerns of the society, spiritual and temporal, are brought regularly, according to their relative magnitude, into the preparative or congregating court ; next into the monthly court which is composed of several preparative meetings ; thirdly to the quartely court, which is composed of a certain number of monthly meetings or courts united ; and lastly, to the yearly meeting or court, which has chancery powers, and is the last or highest authority, and not bound like the others by a constitution, it being considered the whole bulk of the society from whence the inferior meetings receive their power and laws, and consequently insubordinate to any other.

But the most important bearing that these meetings or courts have upon the younger part of the society, is that they constitute free deliberate assemblies. A young Friend has the opportunity of attending a forensic school, if he acquits himself of the regular and reasonable requirements of the society, as often as twenty eight times in a year, besides the

yearly meeting, which generally holds a week or more. What a school for improvement! what a theatre for the developement of talent! This is not a debating school on knotty or disputed points merely because they are such, but on all such theoretical and practical questions, as naturally arise in the temporal, moral, political, and spiritual concerns of a widely extended community. In these assemblies, notwithstanding each member has an equal voice in the debate and in the decision, yet confusion on protracted debates have been seldom witnessed, nor has recourse ever been had to votes, all making it a point quietly to yield to the apparent current of opinion.

Edgar. I feel no disposition to detract from any thing that thou hast recapitulated as advantages peculiar to membership in our society. But some of them would have been more applicable a century back. If Satan, for the purposes of deception, transforms himself into an angel of light; it will not be thought extraordinary if his votaries, or men inclined to follow his example, should assume that garb and dialect which will the most directly give them credit for superior honesty or sanctity. If clothes and language become a recommendation, it will be too easy of attainment to the dishonest to remain so long, and we shall be compelled to abandon this singularity, or become as notorious for sharpers as we have ever been for honest and punctual dealers. This consequence is unavoidable. A level at least with others has already taken place; for once our word was taken so

quick as our, or any other person's bond, but now our lands are considered frequently good for nothing without security : one hundred years ago, a Quaker would have been astonished at being requested to give security, or at being denied credit, and your restoring to us birthright members to continue or extend the society will be a very sure expedient to destroy it, both as to religious life and moral character—for when those who are devoid of real principle, come to be the most numerous, they will give the character to the society ; and if a friend, of the original stamp remain, they will be considered merely as exceptions, as the bad ones are now, or have heretofore been whilst the main body was sound and undegenerate What I shall endeavor to attend to, mother, is to not exchange real for imaginary advantages on either hand ; I must judge for myself, and not blindly follow others ; this is a fundamental principle with us.

Mrs. F. Well, be careful not to renounce real for imaginary happiness : that is what I want thee to remember.

What other conversation passed between them is by this time forgotten ; one thing only is certain, that it had but little weight with Edgar, when put in competition with the real virtue and worth of Caroline, which he imagined belonging nominally to a society, could neither give nor take away ; yet he was not without his suspicion that there might be with her, prejudices imbibed, which could not harmonize with his, for he well knew that he pos-

sessed them, which he could not compromise for any body, although he still flattered himself with the idea of liberality.

Caroline's constitution soon recovered from the shock it had received, but her wonted vivacity, and ease of mind, did not so soon return; she began to be remarked for a disposition for retirement and reading approaching to melancholy; and avoided company on all occasions, when it could be done without a breach of politeness: but when she was compelled from necessity to mingle in the gay circle of hearts at ease, the sweet smile that glowed on her thoughtful countenance, rendered her more tenderly beautiful, as being evidently produced from happiness not her own; evincing a disposition to rejoice that others were happy, though herself unable to pledge them in the cup of felicity. Edgar had not seen her since her recovery; every circumstance conspired to prevent it for some weeks; he had never been a free or at least a familiar visitor at Adsonville; but since his and Caroline's accidental voyage together, a mysterious coldness and distance had been decidedly manifested by her father's family towards him, for which he was unable to account, and attributed it to their attaching blame to him for going off with her in the boat, or that they had taken offence at what she disclosed during her delirium, of his conversation with her: nor was he able, if this were the case, to decide whether their umbrage proceeded from strong objections to him as a suitor to Caroline, or

from his being so unfeeling as to introduce it at such a time, and under such circumstances, for this he began now seriously to condemn himself, and to give to himself a thousand anxious inquietudes, lest he had omitted to her that excess of care and attention which she deserved.

The first time he saw her after their return from Juan Fernandez, as they afterwards always called the island, was on an afternoon, and near evening; the day for the season of the year was cool and windy; he was returning with a small party of young ladies, mostly his relations from a ride. When opposite Adsonville, they insisted Edgar should go in and request Caroline to come to the carriage; he made some excuses for her, but unwilling to appear to hesitate at their commands, he obeyed, and in order to discover what effect it would have upon her mother, enquired familiarly for Caroline. Mrs. Adson appeared disconcerted, and answered, "why, what do—" she was going to add, you want of her, but checked herself, and asked him if he would be seated. A good natured old gentleman, a neighbor, was in the parlor, and discovering in part how the game stood with them, thought he could put all right, by laughing and asking Edgar if he wanted her to take another sail with him. This made him appear a little blunted for a moment; but he replied "no, I hope she'll never have another sail like that again: I have half a dozen ladies in the carriage by the gate, who compelled me to come in and invite Caroline to come to them." "Do

ask them to come in," said Mrs. Adson; "I don't know as it would be prudent for Caroline to go out." As Edgar went out of the door he heard Caroline's voice over his head, calling to his company to come in; he looked up and bowed to her as well as he could, in a position with his head back and face up; but she understood it and returned a nod, accompanied with a smile, and said, "ask them to come in, I must shut this casement or the wind will blow me away." She vanished from his eager view, like an expiring vision, and he proceeded dejectedly down the path. His company not electing to go in, they proceeded home: and as much as Caroline's image filled his mind, he endeavored not to be insensible to the social charms of his beautiful companions, and he listened to their sweet prattle, as to the innocent carols of the birds of the grove.

Mrs. Adson had informed her daughter of the incoherent hints she had unconsciously thrown out during her sickness, and desired to know if they proceeded from any thing that had passed between her and Mr. F. Caroline was much chagrined to think she had unwittingly exposed herself, and excited the apprehensions of her parents against Edgar. She assured her mother that he had conducted towards her with the greatest propriety, that he appeared distressed only on her account; and from the idea that he had been the means of bringing her into danger; "although," said she, "it was my own imprudence that involved me in that difficulty and not his; and I never can forgive myself, if in return, I have

been the cause of exciting a prejudice in your minds or others against him."

To this Mrs. Adson replied, "that she would be willing to know whether Mr. F. had made any declaration of attachment to her."

Caroline answered, that she "could not say that he had distinctly;" and her conscience not feeling perfectly easy with this, she was about to qualify it still more, by adding that she did not know but that he had—but this her mother prevented, by repeating after her the word 'distinctly,' "such subjects are seldom discoursed of distinctly, where what is said derives half its meaning from the eyes. The parties may understand each other perfectly, whilst what they articulate with their lips would scarcely be sufficient to convict them of any meaning whatever."

Caroline said, "she was such a novice in that idiom, she could not take upon herself the responsibility of interpreting it."

The mother finally wished her ingenuously to confess if there were any grounds whatever for suspecting that the germ of affection was planted between them, and that its roots were insinuating their fibres in their hearts.

Caroline endeavored to evade an answer to this question, by raising a laugh at her mother's rhetorical figure; but the latter was too intent upon her main object to be diverted from it, and Caroline was obliged to answer, which she did by saying she did not know; if esteem and respect, or even a preference constituted such

grounds, she did not know but that on her part, they might exist, but she did not herself calculate on any thing extraordinary from such sentiments."

Mrs. A. Did you ever confess to him as much as that.

Caroline. Did I ever! I hope not; I should be in great business to inform every young gentleman how far I approve of him.

Mrs. A. Well, that to be sure would be ridiculous; but have you any reasons to induce you to suppose that his sentiments are as favorable towards you.

Caroline, after a long pause, answered in the negative.

"None!" said her mother: "None," said Caroline, "judging from the principles you have laid down for my government in such cases.

Mrs. A. What are they?

Caroline. That I must not judge of the sentiments of young men, acquainted with the world, by their protestations; nor imagine myself an object of admiration; that this was a common error for girls to commit, &c.

Mrs. A. True, but when circumstances and conduct all conspire to confirm them, we may.

Caroline. But then, mother, you say it is impossible to form a correct judgment in such cases, on account of the weakness of the female heart, and the faculty we have of construing every thing favorable to the result we desire. I have, however, been far from scrutinizing either his, or any other gentleman's conduct.

towards me, and I hope I shall not soon be under the necessity of such an indelicate task.

Mrs. A. From what I can discover, my dear Caroline, I incline to the opinion that an unwary attachment, unless guarded against, may captivate your affections ; which instead of promoting the true end for which these propensities are implanted in our natures, may be productive of disappointment and perplexity ; for surely, Caroline, you have no idea of being a Quaker, nor of having a Quaker for a husband. Mr F. at present, is a spruce young gentleman, and exhibits but little of the Quaker in the exterior ; but do you just speak against the dogmas of his religion, Robert Barclay himself is not more ready with an argument to put you to silence.

Caroline. Certainly, mother, whatever his religious sentiments are, he is neither superstitious nor bigotted ; but I shall not attempt to plead his cause gratuitously.

Mrs. Adson. I hope Caroline that the confidence that has always subsisted between us, will not suffer any diminution, now that it becomes more necessary. I do not even suspect that you have designedly concealed your understanding with Edgar from me ; for I am apprehensive, that you yourself do not know your danger in that respect, if danger it may be called. You must keep a guard over your imagination, nothing can be imagined more dependent and ridiculous than a (girl in love.) It is the indispensable duty of every intelligent young female, to preserve her affections at her own disposal, to bestow in return for

the offer of the hand and affections of a gentleman she esteems and respects, when they are decidedly and unequivocally tendered. This advice may appear to your unsuspecting simplicity, cautious in the extreme, but in general it will be found at least prudent; and if you would do as you would be done by, you must conduct with that reserve towards Mr. F. as shall effectually check any further advances, if indeed any should be made. Your father expects you will do as much as this for him; for you must be aware how disagreeable it would be to him to have one introduced into his family, as his son-in-law, and heir to his property, whose principles and manners are so repugnant to his own, and to what he considers Christianity and common civility.

Caroline's bosom swelled with emotion, to which she had hitherto been a stranger, at hearing Edgar implicated as unworthy of the character of either gentleman or Christian, and herself forbidden to treat him as such. What extraordinary returns, said she to herself will this be for his amiable attention to me; I cannot but think him worthy of more honorable treatment. She now found that her heart was more of a friend to Edgar, than she was before aware of; and had her mother asked over again, some of the questions she had just answered, she could not in conscience have given such equivocal answers. The idea of conducting towards the man she most respected, and in her heart most approved, with less courtesy than she should believe consistent

with politeness in common cases, was very revolting to her sensibility.

After a little pause in the conversation in which C. endeavored to stifle her emotions, she replied, that to behave towards any person in a marked disrespectful manner, before they had given her just occasion for it, would greatly embarrass her ; but if her parents saw occasion for it she would endeavor to comply.

This conversation took place soon after Caroline's recovery, and may account for the change in her habits already mentioned. She felt herself bound to obey her mothers' commands, but to spare herself the mortification of putting them in practice, had uniformly avoided such companies as would be likely to lead to an interview with Edgar. This course was a restraint upon her inclinations : and a source of affliction and chagrin to Edgar, who discouraged by the coldness of her family towards him, had waited in expectation and hopes of an interview with her from home ; until despairing of this, he determined upon calling himself at Adsonville, and enquiring the cause of their coldness towards him ; and apologising for, or explaining whatever might be alleged against him ; but more particularly to have an opportunity of seeing Caroline, whom report, strengthened by her recluse habits, still represented as not yet having recovered her serenity and powers of mind ; although his friend, the doctor, assured him she was perfectly well. In pursuance of this resolution, towards the close of a beautiful day, but whilst the lake still glistening with the slanting rays

of the setting sun, he entered alone the door of Adsonville. Caroline and her parents were together in the parlor; although his easy manners and address did not altogether desert him, yet he accosted them with evident embarrassment, and a faltering voice; whilst they were so confused from the recollection of their conversation about him and his unexpected debut, that they neglected to offer him a seat. Caroline looked towards a chair, but she was neither able to rise nor speak; at the first glance he imagined he discovered an important alteration in her countenance and that the roses on her cheek had lost their hue. I have come, says he, (Caroline started as he began to avow his errand, for she had some apprehension of his rash frankness.) "I have come, to make all the acknowledgement in my power; if I have been guilty of any improper conduct towards you, or have in any way given offence. From your reserved demeanor towards me, and from other circumstances, I should conclude I had; but my conscience is unfaithful in that case, for it refuses to bring to my recollection what it might be, unless it was my negligence to guard Caroline's health with more vigilance, whilst she was unfortunately exposed with me on the water. I was very thoughtless in suffering her to be called up before day to come on shore, when she so much needed repose: but it was not so much from any objection to detaining the vessel, as from the desire of communicating to her the cheering intelligence that she had arrived at home, and relieving you from your anxiety on her account. I imagined

at that moment it would be to her the best cordial that could be administered; but it was highly improper; I beg your forgiveness, although I shall never forgive myself. Good heavens! how she has altered, can it be possible I am the cause of it? (Caroline was indeed pale now,) and she could but articulate the word "no," and cast a faint look at her mother as if to request her to answer for her and relieve his uneasiness. Her father at length answered him, that he had heard no complaint of him on that head, and he believed his apprehensions were groundless.—Edgar repeated his words "on that head," and waited some time for him to say more; but discovering he was not disposed to, he added, I did not complain of your implied censure, as unjust, I wished to let you know that I suffered under it myself; I hope you will forgive me this intrusion. Farewell, Caroline, said he, advancing and taking her hand, in a few days I leave home for the southern states, but I could not endure to leave you without making some acknowledgment for my cruel neglect, at a time when you had risked your life for the preservation of mine, or to arrest my useless temerity; I hope thou wilt soon recover, and suffer nothing to disturb thy health or peace. Farewell, sir, said she. Edgar bowed to Mr. and Mrs. Adson, and retired, but his steps lingered in his walk through the scenery which he knew to be Caroline's favorite resort, and his mind underwent the most violent struggles, in his attempts to overcome

his extreme passion and admiration for the object from whom, for some long months at least, he should be widely separated; at length the darkness of the evening and the chill air warned him to return to his home, where peace, plenty and happiness appeared to be the boon of all its inmates, and he the only one who was in a state of mind inimical to the enjoyment of these blessings.

CHAPTER III.

The shades that hang upon our love,
Will make it but the fonder;
Whatever sky may lower above,
With thee Karine will wander.

Atheneum.

THE succeeding spring we find Edgar on his return from his southern route: at the close of one of the finest bright days of April, he drove up one of the principal streets of the city of ~~Hudson~~ *Hudson*. The frost had been recently liberated from the teeming earth, and the streets, although partially dried, were deeply rutted. His chesnut coloured horse, of Arabian breed, had his fire and courage moderated by a forty miles' travel through the day; and covered with drying sweat and foam, was proceeding on a walk, whilst his driver was reconnoitering for a house of entertainment that promised ample refreshment for both. At length he turned up to a respectable looking hotel; his baggage was immediately taken care of, and he politely invited to walk in. The sun had just then gave back his last streaks of vermillion, and the western windows were blazing with golden lustre; the universal serenity was undisturbed by the

slightest breeze. The salubrity of such an evening had more charms for him than the fumes of a bar-room, and he chose to follow the ostler as he took his carriage into the back yard : his attention here was arrested by a group of children, who were racing with great hilarity around the yard after his dog, which appeared to have a cloth attached to his neck. He called Oscar to him, and taking a handkerchief from his collar, held it out towards the boys, who stopped at a respectful distance, when they saw the dog take refuge at his master's feet. " Here," says he, " whose is this, come and take it," supposing some of them had been attempting to lead him—" does not this belong to some of you little rogues?" Those in front looked back upon the rear and laughed : some of them answered no ; and finding their sport with the dog over, with shouts, they at once ran off in pursuit of new.

The landlord, in complaisance to his guest, had now joined him, and was introducing discourse by complimenting the beauty of the evening, and the drying weather favorable for travelling. Edgar handed him the handkerchief, saying he supposed it belonged to some boys who had been playing with his dog. The inn-keeper took the handkerchief, and observed that it was very fine, and not such an one as children would be likely to have. He looked successively at each corner, and on the last read C. Adson. Adson! repeated Edgar hastily, I believe I do know something about it, but I do not know how the dog came by it. His host perceiving his astonishment, ven-

tured his opinion, that he had dropped it out of the carriage, and the dog had picked it up. Edgar, to prevent further enquiries, observed carelessly, that he could not conceive how he should lose it, nor what should endow the dog with sagacity enough to find it. But this mystery the tavern-keeper endeavored to make more probable by relating several anecdotes of a similar nature. During his stay he heard the story of the dog's finding and bringing in his mouth his master's handkerchief repeated to every one who entered the bar-room; Oscar was repeatedly called up and fed, and caressed for it, and received it with as much gravity and complaisancy, as if he really merited it.

When left alone to take his tea, he again took it out and examined it with mingled emotions of surprise and delight; it was of very fine lawn, and C. Adson was legibly worked on it with silk; and without doubt, was wrought in with Caroline's own hands; but the great question with him was, how his dog should become decorated with it? Instead of joining with the landlord in applauding his sagacity, he felt more like chiding his sapient companion for his unintelligence, on a subject which so nearly interested his master.

A full moon and clear star-bespangled firmament succeeded the splendid day, and shed their mild light through every street and lane of the city; the citizens, as if satiated with the beauty of a long and refulgent spring day, had deserted the streets for repose or retirement; all was stillness, save where some be-

lated countrymen were bawling to their impatient horses to stand, whilst their intoxicated driver and passengers were climbing over the wheels, or hunting for a vacant seat in the straw.

With a slow and pensive step, Edgar was returning from down the street, where he had walked to pass away or enjoy the evening, towards his inn, when he perceived an opposite chamber window of a large brick house raised, and a young lady sitting by it, whose figure appeared familiar; he now recollected for the first time, that as he passed this house, on entering the city, he had observed two or three young ladies standing on the steps, and he conceived the idea that the very person he now saw, was none other but Caroline:—he stood directly opposite to her, and perceiving that he had caught her observation, bowed and kissed his hand to her: she started, and rising up, gave an earnest look at him, and with apparent reluctance, lowered the window and retired. Edgar remained, and watched the light until it was extinguished, and then returned to his lodgings, with his mind filled with that kind of uncertainty and conjecture, which banishes all settlement or rest from it.—If it should prove that this was Caroline, he concluded the dog must have known her, and introduced himself to her notice, and being recognized by her, she formed, at the instant, the playful artifice, of fastening the handkerchief with her name on it to his collar, to introduce herself to the remembrance, or puzzle the brains, of his master. And if

this was her design, he was fully sensible she had succeeded to admiration; for so much did the subject occupy his mind, that it was not until the eastern horizon became tinged with approaching light, that his active imagination surrendered her powers to the arms of Morpheus.

He did not awaken until the sun had climbed high in the East, and commenced with inimitable day. The farmers were driving down the streets with waggon loaded with grain, or returning with gypsum to prepare their land for future crops.

The first thing he determined upon was, before he left the city, to ascertain who it was that had attracted his attention the preceding evening; and he was not without ardent hopes, that he should meet with Caroline. When prepared to depart on his journey, he drove to the door of the house in question, and a servant appearing to hold his horse, he alighted and was ushered in; being met at the parlor door and conducted by an interesting and polite young lady. He now began to feel something awkward at not having at hand an excuse for calling; but it was a suitable opportunity for him to put in practice his general rule, which was never to be engaged in the pursuit of an object he was ashamed to avow; when, therefore, he perceived that all in the room were raising to receive him, he informed them that he felt as if his business was of but little consequence. (His amiable and prepossessing appearance and manners, together with his style, would have made the

young ladies willing to have heard him avow a more important errand.) "When I came in town last evening," said he, "I imagined I saw a lady by the door or window with whom I am acquainted. You can, probably, inform me whether I am mistaken. I am some distance from home, and if such a stranger be here, it would be agreeable to meet with her."

Two or three of the family appeared simultaneously disposed to answer him, but they checked their inclinations, and looked at Emeline, the oldest of the daughters, requesting her to answer him. "It was Miss Adson, sir," said she, "and her father, who lodged with us last night."—"And are they gone?" said Edgar quickly.—"Yes; they started early this morning, with an intention of reaching the end of their journey by night."—"Do you know where they are bound?" said Edgar.—"Not exactly; it is in Dutchess county—Miss Adson is going to a boarding school." He then held his head down for some minutes thoughtfully, until Emeline asked him if that was the person he supposed he had seen? He smiled, and answered yes. The smile was contagious and passed upon all in the room. He enquired if they were connected; and if not, how they came to make their house their home? adding, they are my neighbors and reside more than two hundred miles from this place. "They are strangers to us," said Emeline; "only that we fell in company on the road, and by stopping together at the same inn. My father and myself were so pleased with their company, that we insisted

upon their putting up with us, instead of going to a tavern?"—"No doubt it was much more agreeable to Caroline," said Edgar; "your company must have been much more congenial than any she would have met with at the tavern."—"I am not sure of that," returned Emeline, smiling, "if you were there; but be that as it may, we were much pleased with her. I rode with her in their carriage one day. She appeared delighted with the prospects that our country affords at this early season, and kept herself in tolerable spirits, unless the school was introduced, when she would instantly grow sad. She said if I should go with her, she thought she could stay a year contentedly."—"I wish," replied Edgar, "you could be her school mate; for, I apprehend, it would much contribute to her contentment; you appear much like her."—"I thank you, sir, for the compliment; it flatters me."—"It may any one," said Edgar.—"I mean," said Emeline, "it would flatter me if I supposed there were any grounds for it: but among so many girls as there are at boarding schools, she will not fail to find one who will form for her a more agreeable companion."

Caroline had taken her leave of this agreeable and hospitable family, with a heavy heart, expecting to arrive at her destined home by the close of the day; she realized already the return of her father and her lonely situation: for some miles the tears flowed profusely, and the splendor of a beautiful morning and highly cultivated country, through which

they passed, were not permitted to soothe the agitations of a mind working with contending emotions, and struggling for nothing but resignation. Her father perceived it, but did not interfere in the conflict: he appeared himself to be but a little more composed, although he maintained a settled countenance. He felt sensible of the keenness of his daughter's sensations, yet he could not consent to alter his arrangements, to which Caroline had consented with an apparent cheerfulness; although it was avowedly for the purpose of separating her from the possibility of meeting with one who, he had good grounds for believing, had touched the finest threads of her sensibilities;—against whom no positive objections could be raised, and who had shared with her the most appalling dangers, and whose gallant intrepidity had rescued her from them, and delivered her in triumph to the arms of her despairing and agonized parents: he could not find in his heart, to censure or condemn her, if she felt a prepossession in his favour, and disposed to honor him with her preference; but he had other and different prospects respecting the disposal of his only daughter, who would be heir to a large estate; and to prevent their frustration, he was disposed to go considerable lengths; and as Caroline had been some months without seeing Edgar, he had fallen upon the plan of removing her to a boarding school before his return, supposing that another year's absence would effectually remove or divert the passions of both to other objects.

If he had allowed himself to reflect, he must have perceived that the real happiness of his beloved daughter depended on his giving her to one, who was possessed of a disposition congenial to hers, and possessed of every manly grace and accomplishment, and of a family equal in property and respectability; but he had been educated a Quaker. This was sufficient for Caroline's father to start at, and to eclipse every consideration in his favor.

The variety of objects they passed, and particularly the sublime appearance of the Kattskill mountains that ranged on the west side of the Hudson, in a line parallel with their road, at length soothed the mind of Caroline; and her sighs grew gradually lighter, and less frequent, until placid serenity beamed in her countenance, and resignation calmed the tumults of her soul.

Before the sun again hid himself behind the western scenery, they drove before a long house with a portico; the whole length of which were a group of young ladies, sitting or walking leisurely without their bonnets. Mr. Adson cast his eye upon them, and then looked Caroline in the face and smiled, to let her know that she had arrived at the end of her journey. The movement convinced her of the fact, and so unexpectedly, that it deprived her of the ability to help herself out of the carriage, or articulate a word. Mr. Adson was endeavoring to assist her, and looking around in consternation at her situation, which the fair scholars perceiving, rushed

forward, offering their assistance, and asking if she was sick, and if she had come to school? And expressing their joy and congratulations on being informed she had, two of the oldest of them took her by the arms and led her in; at the same time consoling her with the assurance, that she would in a short time be very contented and happy. They were met at the door by the amiable mistress, who understanding the cause of Caroline's trepidation, led her into a retired room, where, after seeing her placed comfortably on a bed, she desired the girls to withdraw, and leave their new friend alone, until she recovered her composure, and from the fatigue of her journey. After they had retired, the worthy matron endeavored to console Caroline with the assurance, that she would soon recover her spirits; and did not doubt, spend a few months with them very agreeably, and she hoped also to her advantage. Caroline perceived by her appearance and language, that she was a Quakeress, and her tender regard for her, or some other prepossession, instantly endeared her to her heart. She was too full to speak her acknowledgments; but as Mrs. S——, passed her hand near her face, to adjust her clothes, she seized it, and carrying it to her lips, impressed upon it a kiss; then bursting into tears, she covered her face; and Mrs. S——, after standing a moment, concluded to leave her to recover alone, that composure which must, of course, succeed such violent emotions.

Mr. Adson was unaccountably chagrined at

finding that the school he had heard so highly recommended, was conducted by a Quaker lady, and was half determined to make Caroline's distress an excuse for taking her home with him : but, perceiving that many of the young ladies, from their appearance and manners, were under no restraint on that ground, and understanding that there were different houses of worship in the village, which they were at liberty to attend, according to the wishes of their parents : and as he could not avoid admiring the polite and sensible demeanor of the accomplished mistress and her assistants ; and the happy contentment, innocent freedom and gaiety of the scholars, he concluded that rather than lose his journey, he would risk the danger of her becoming contaminated with Quakerism. He spent the next day in observing the course of study pursued, and the order and regularity of the family, with which he was well pleased ; and the succeeding morning took his leave of Caroline, with more agitation and affection than he had ever before manifested. He gave to her an ample supply of money, and desired her not to deprive herself of any thing she thought necessary ; and if she chose to return before her time was expired, she should be gratified.

Caroline, although now strongly prepossessed in favor of her new home, could not suppress the most violent emotions of sensibility, although she at the same time had the presence of mind to assure her father, that they would last but a moment, and that she be-

lieved she should be happy. She followed his carriage with her eyes, until by turning a corner it disappeared, and then manifested no disposition to leave the spot, until the tender remonstrances of her kind teacher persuaded her to beguile her recollections by application to her studies, which soon became very delightful, and in which she made rapid progress. These, with the agreeable company and tender assiduities of her school mates, soon had the effect to make her happy and pleased with her situation. But the recollection of Edgar, with her conjectures in regard to what further measures, if any, he might pursue relative to their final union, would occasionally steal on her mind and make her thoughtful and pensive. Their situation was on the margin of Wappinger's Creek, which constantly reminded her of Adsonville. On the shore of this placid and majestic stream, the scholars had a secluded walk, where at evening and on pleasant mornings, they were permitted to wander and enjoy the beauty of the rural scenery and the music of the choristers of the grove. At some distance from the school the river separated into two different channels, and then joined again, embracing a small islet, which was suffered to remain in a state of nature. To this island, on particular occasions, they were treated with an excursion in a boat kept for that purpose. Caroline at one time made one of the party; the day had been excessively warm; but as the sun was descending, the wind raised moderately from the west, bringing with it a most refresh-

ing coolness. When they landed on this secluded spot, Caroline's companions were delighted to ecstasy with their situation : but to the heart of Caroline, it brought too forcibly the recollection of past events ; for, besides its being an uninhabited island, she perceived that the change in the air was occasioned by an approaching gust, and the distant thunder already warned them of its approach.

It is no more than could be expected, that a girl of the affectionate and sentimental character of Caroline, among so many girls, would be likely to select one for a particular friend : in making this selection many circumstances determined her in favor of Penelope S——, who anticipated from this excursion a double pleasure from sharing it with Caroline, to whom it would be new ; but her surprize was great, when instead of reading it in her countenance, she discovered that to be the index of a contrary emotion, and that as she took hold of her arm, her agitation affected her even to trembling. “ What is the matter,” said she, “ with my dear Caroline ; some sudden indisposition, I am sure.” She then attempted to call to her assistance her companions, but Caroline, smiling, prevented her, assuring her she was well : “ What then is it,” said Penelope, “ that affects my dear sister Caroline ; is it the thunder ? it is very distant.” “ No,” said Caroline.

Penelope. May I then not know what it is ? Surely it must be something extraordinary ; you were commonly so happy, so pleased with the scenery and beauty of nature :

Is it something that must be concealed from thy Penelope? I want to be thy friend.”—
“Indeed, Penelope,” answered Caroline, “thou art the best and nearest friend I have, within some hundreds of miles: I would conceal nothing from thee that is worth relating.”

Penelope. Any thing that so affects thee must be worth relating: tell me, Caroline, perhaps I can assist thee.

Caroline. It is a mere trifle: I cannot account for my sensibility of nerves, unless it arises from the very circumstance, the recollection of which causes me to tremble.

Penelope. What is it, Caroline?

Caroline. My father's house is situated on the banks of Lake Ontario, and I once was blown off in our pleasure boat, at evening, in a violent gale, into the middle of the lake; and after being out all night, landed on an uninhabited island, almost out of sight of any other land.

Penelope. What were you on a party, how many of you were there?

Caroline. No, I was in the boat, and supposed her to be fastened until I discovered my mistake.

Penelope. But then you were not alone!—what! alone all night on the water; and then on a desert island! how did you get back, or how did you live to get there? I should have thought you would have sprung to the shore, rather than to have went.

Caroline. One cannot imagine what they are able to live through, until they are put to the test.

Penelope. So then thou wert alone, wast thou?

Caroline felt embarrassed, and repented having said any thing on the subject; but her friend appeared so interested, that some further explanation was unavoidable; she, therefore, gave her a succinct account of the circumstances, concealing as much as possible every thing that might lead to a suspicion of any particular interest existing between her and the person who was her companion: but this was not done so effectually as to prevent Penelope from saying with a smile, she should like to know who that Edgar was; but by this time the cloud had approached so near them, with such a threatening aspect, that the fair fugitives were running from every part of the island for the boat; each with a bunch of evergreens, or a branch of honeysuckle as a trophy in their hands. They reached the house just as the large drops were beginning to beat on the roof, and with freshened, animated countenances, laid aside their bonnets and disposed of their prizes, congratulating each other on their timely escape from the shower, calling over the list of names, to ascertain that none were left. Caroline seated herself in the piazza to observe the descending torrent and watch the vivid flashes of lightning; whilst others, who had not been taught to subdue their terror on such occasions, were hiding their faces in each other's laps.

Nothing transpired to disturb the even tenor of Caroline's happiness, but occasional re-

collections of her absent friends, and these were always qualified with the reflection that it would not be long before she should again meet them, with the improvement of a finished education. The recollection of Edgar, with sentiments of esteem, and perhaps some degree of affection, was the most important exception: she would have been gratified occasionally to have had his company, if it could have been obtained without compromising her duty to her parents; but, if not, she felt that she could dispense with it, without making her unhappy: she was even surprised, that at some moments, she had been on the point of promising to live but for him; and she endeavored to force herself to be pleased with the idea, that the warmth of affection which he had professed for her had by this time given way to sober reflection, and that he would never again importune her to consider their happiness and inclinations a sufficient excuse for temporising with, or thwarting, the authority of their parents: at other times she would reproach herself with charges of ingratitude to him for the tenderness and preference he had honored her with, and half concluded he might now, whilst she was so happy, be laboring under that dreadful malady she had read of in novels, and with the perplexity of not knowing where she was: she regretted her childish freak of fastening her handkerchief to his dog's collar, and then again consoled herself with the thought that it lost off before he saw it, and that it was the

height of vanity to suppose that any man of the accomplishment, penetration and philosophy of Edgar would be in love, especially with one so unlikely to inspire that passion as herself; although, if she had possessed a particle of vanity, not only her glass, but every one who approached her by their marked attention, must have convinced her that none could be likely to wield the arrows of Cupid with more fatal effect.

Edgar had returned home not only without any abatement of his passion, but with all that restless vacuity of soul, which the absence, and unknown place of the beloved object will necessarily beget when it fails to effect a cure. He passed the summer in the most intense application to business, without obtaining such specific information of her retreat as should enable him to address a letter, but with the unvaried determination of devoting time in the autumn to finding her. The doctor was his only companion in such short relaxations as he indulged himself with, and the sharer in the knowledge of the fixed and unalterable nature of his attachment, although it was suspected and often spoken of by others. As his friend frequently called at Adsonville, he would sometimes enquire when they had heard from Caroline, and after her health, as having been his patient; and also where she was at school. To the last of these questions, he always received an evasive or indefinite answer: at length he discovered that a cousin of Caroline, to whom he himself paid attention, and who had been her intimate, corresponded

with her, and offered to direct a letter to her, if it should be put into her hands; but her address she was forbidden to disclose. With this pleasing intelligence he hastened to Edgar, who lost no time in improving the opportunity; and the next morning gave to her, folded and sealed, the following letter:—

MOST AMIABLE,

Having proved by my long silence that I possess yet some command over my inclination, I wish now by writing to assure thee of the continuation and unabated ardency of my affection; which, deeply rooted in my heart, and founded on no superficial attractions in its object, cannot fail to throb in my breast, whilst the sanguine streams of life flow in my veins.

It is not my intention to smother thy modesty with compliments and flatteries, notwithstanding I might plead sincerity in extenuation. I should not expect in that way to succeed in opposition to thy good sense and penetration. I cannot but believe thou art conscious of thy absolute power over me: if there be a shade of doubt of it, banish it forever; or permit me to prove it any way, that shall not subject thyself to the impertinence, and me to the character, of a whining and teasing lover. I know thou wilt prefer the frank declaration of a gentleman, and the candor of a man of honor, to all the vagaries and phantasies of a coxcomb, or even the son-

nets of a Petrarch. The latter my sublime passion can scarcely qualify me for; but how many of the former, I may be left to play, I can hardly pretend to vouch for.

Do not admit the idea and the excuse, that thou canst not think of marriage; neither do I care for that at present, until it shall be thy pleasure; but I am discontented until I know that I occupy the first place in thy heart, as thou dost in mine; it is our interest and duty in youth to lay the foundation of happiness, and

“ Friendship alone unfolds to view sources of real pleasure.”

O, how all my faculties have been absorbed in listening to that sentimental hymn, modulated by thy own lips; its notes still thrill through my nerves, and dwell on my recollection.

When you remember, Caroline, my protestations of love, and give me credit for candor, can you imagine how I have supported such an age of absence and uncertainty. I have one precious memento of thee, which I preserve with the greatest pleasure and most sacred care: I mean your handkerchief. I thank thee for that mark of regard: I have almost flattered myself, that it was done to be remembered; if so, I give thee a thousand thanks for thy condescension, and will promise much more to be assured of it. Not a lady enters the store, but I look to find some faint likeness of Caroline. If I am so happy as to discover the most distant resemblance, it immediately has the charm of redoubling my attention. To avoid appearing absent, I have

avoided young company ; and, indeed, I could expect no pleasure in it. I have attempted to drown the too acute remembrance of thee, in close application to business ; so far as to subject myself to the imputation of suffering premature avarice to destroy my health. How little do they know the cause, and perhaps, the dire necessity of such an antidote to the powerful passion, which, in a state of leisure, would prey more fatally on my heart : how little do they know the trifling value I should place on wealth, if it were not to be devoted to the happiness of Caroline.

To all thy goodness, please to add that of writing to me : it will lay me under infinite obligation ; and I beg of thee to think sometimes of one who never can forget thee ; foster the prospect of one day making him happy. I know the liberality of thy mind too well to fear, that because he is called by some a Quaker, thou wilt consider him a superstitious bigot. I am conscious of never giving grounds for such an unfavourable impression ; neither have my co-religionists, who have had the advantages of information, and many of them thou wilt find in the part of the state thou art now in. I almost hear thee answer, that thy suspicions would sooner accuse me of an error bordering on the other extreme : of this, also, I desire to be exonerated. I reciprocate the reverence for virtue, which I know is implanted in thy nature ; but I do not see how any body can be very religious until they are married. This is a bad idea ; but what I mean is, that the seductions

and allurements of youth are such, that when they become settled to their satisfaction, they are more likely to attend to the one thing needful.

If I hear not from thee, or if I am not in the most positive manner forbidden, I shall, in the succeeding autumn, find thee; one pleasant look will amply repay me for traversing the long road. I wish, at least, to be assured of the perfect recovery of thy health and spirits. I omit no opportunity of enquiring after thee, and thy mother was so good as to assure me she thought thou wert perfectly well. There appears yet to be some distance between me and thy father; but I think I shall succeed in lessening it, although I have no disposition to be truant to my principles, yet I perceive in passing him, my right hand involuntarily touches my hat, and my Quaker shoulders are surprisingly pliant.

I would willingly add any little information which I might think would be pleasant; but every thing appears so insipid to me, that I should give but a sorry account of the neighborhood. Maria, who is to take charge of forwarding this letter, will do it much more to thy satisfaction; and I have taken the liberty occasionally of a moonlight night to walk along shore as far as thy favorite arcade, and spend a few minutes in it. But happening, accidentally, to hear of its being haunted with apparitions, and being unwilling to add to the terrors of the ignorant, I have discontinued my evening ramble in that quarter. I have relations who must live within something like

a day's ride of the place where thou art immured; and this, if any other but the true one should be wanted, will furnish me with a pretext for coming. Expect me in September, and may I find thee enjoying health and happiness, and charitably disposed to bestow it upon one who desires to be permitted to subscribe himself most sincerely thine, for life.

E. F.

C. Adson.

P. S. Doctor H——, who, with Maria, only knows of my presumption in writing, desires most sincerely to be remembered to thee.

E. F.

It was extremely mortifying to Edgar to find that Caroline had not only been placed at a distance, to prevent him from opportunities of cultivating the attachment between them, but that even her place of residence had been studiously concealed from him, and those who would be likely to inform him of it: the cause for such extreme objection to him, he had always imputed to the strong prejudice against his profession, and this was certainly the principal, and the one that led her father to extremities; but another motive which actuated him, had recently come to the knowledge of Edgar, through the medium of Caroline's cousin and the doctor. Mr. Adson had brought up a young man, whose father was a distant relation to him, and who lost his life on board of one of the

United States' ships in the attack on Tripoli, under Commodore Preble : For this young man he had obtained a commission of captain in the United States' land service ; he had been kept from home at school, to complete his military education, for several years before he received his commission ; and since that, had been on duty in the southern part of the states in the recruiting department : so that although Edgar had seen him, and was acquainted with his name, yet they neither of them knew each other at present by sight : he had heard Caroline often speak of him, and of his expected return home ; but not in such a way as to fix his attention upon him as a rival ; and now, in his cooler moments, he felt but little apprehension on that head ; yet, when he gave loose to the unquiet effects of the unruly passion, he was ready to suspect some danger to his views from that quarter ; for, when he considered the advantages the captain would have from allies so powerful as Caroline's parents would be with her, and from the advantages and accomplishments he would be likely to derive from a liberal education and acquaintance with the world, he could not doubt of his ability to carry any female heart he might chose to lay siege to. His apprehensions on this head were lessened by the hopes which he entertained, that the captain's attachment to a military life, and the company he associated with, would divert him from any such enterprise ; but his chief hopes were, that Caroline's heart had already declared in his favor ; and that she would

have the constancy to hold out against every other summons of surrender. It was true she had said but little, or rather nothing to warrant such a flattering conclusion; yet he imagined he had understood it by a language equally plain, and less liable to deceive than words. Her father, he did not doubt, had good sense enough to yield his own views, without going to further extremities, if he could prevail upon Caroline to confess to him that her happiness was at stake: and of her mother being easily prevailed upon to espouse his cause he had no doubt, as her deportment ever since his visit to them on his departure for the southward, was evidently altered: when he met her, instead of appearing to slight him, she gave him the passing compliments with a marked affability; and at one time, when he asked her with apparent and real concern if she had heard from Caroline, and if she thought her health was perfectly restored, she replied to him with apparent satisfaction, and thanked him for enquiring after her. Any serious opposition from his own parents he never apprehended, any further than advice: he had waited with impatience for an answer from Caroline, until either despairing of her answering it, or fearing if she had, that it had miscarried, he desired the doctor to enquire if Maria had been more fortunate; and in less than a month from the time he wrote, he had the gratification of being informed that she had received returns from her with some information for him, but which amounted to nothing more than that

Caroline could not give him any more satisfaction on the subject on which he had written, than what she supposed he already possessed—with her best respects, and these again repeated at the close of the letter. “What am I to understand by that?” cries Edgar eagerly. “What,” replies the doctor laughing, “why, that you knew her heart, and that it had experienced no change.”

Edgar. A change of heart is generally considered a happy circumstance; but I know not how a change of hers would affect me.—How could she suppose I knew her heart, certainly not from any thing she ever said, excepting, perhaps, when she was unconscious of what she did say.

Doctor. Edgar, can you seriously entertain any doubts of her sentiments towards you?

Edgar. I can, seriously. I am continually calling up circumstances to decide the point, and I alter my conclusions half a dozen times a day, or rather during the night; for during the day I am so occupied in business with people, that I am not at liberty to attend to the subject. But tell me, Doctor, thou art in the constant study of human nature and human frailty, what is thy opinion of my case; is it desperate? Do not deceive me as you do people on a dying bed, but let me know the truth.

Doctor. I think your case cannot be dangerous any way; for if it does not determine according to your wishes, I think it will admit of a cure; for if you can forget it during

the day, only make your day last half the night, and the remainder part you will be compelled to sleep, and you never, at that rate, will think of it again, and there will be an end of the matter.

Edgar. I have no disposition for a cure, and of course shall not undertake to follow your prescription, until I find a more pressing necessity for it; though perhaps I shall do as many others do—put off sending for the doctor until it is too late: but what do you think of the probability of my succeeding with Caroline? I want the judgment of a disinterested person, and you know as much about it as I do: you know I am in love with *her*, and that is all I know. If *she* ever said any thing on the subject, it was in her delirium, and that you heard and I did not.

Doctor. Well, then, I will give you my opinion; you have nothing to fear; I wish I stood as well with Maria.

Edgar. Is it possible that you have any doubts on that head?

Doctor. Certainly I have.

Edgar. Well, then, I will take courage; for, although true love, like true courage, never despairs; yet, unlike true courage, I believe it is always full of fears.

Doctor. They are, I believe, a very common symptom, and a very natural one; for where we attribute so much excellence, we elevate the object in our imagination, by our very love, above our own level.

Edgar. And do you ever reflect, Doctor, that it is possible this excellence exists, but it

the maniacal hallucination, as Darwin would call it, of our own brain ; but with the divine Caroline, I do not think it can be the case.

Doctor. (Laughing.) Neither do I with the divine Maria.

Edgar. (Smiling.) That they are much alike I cannot deny ; but —

Doctor. You are in love with Caroline, and I with Maria ; therefore, the excellence of the one is in your brain, and the other in mine ; that's all the difference.

Edgar. We talk much like men in love, I confess : if our mistresses were present, they could not fail of being convinced of the sincerity of our passion : what is your opinion of novels, and their tendency ?

Doctor. Their tendency varies like all other books, according to the sentiments and principles they inculcate by the example and character of their heroes. They are rapidly (although this is an exception) assuming a historical and descriptive character, in which form they are far less exceptionable, and are in fact nothing more than a poetical narration of fact, or description of scenery, or a striking and living delineation of character, connected with a moderately seasoned love-tale to please those who have been in love ; for no one who has not been in love can take any satisfaction in reading a tale of that kind ; neither can any one who has, be totally uninterested in them.

Edgar. I do not think it argues extraordinary philosophy, or knowledge of what constitutes happiness, to pretend to be above be-

ing affected with this weakness, even though it looks trifling, and is ridiculed by wise men ; yet we have numerous instances of men of the strongest minds yielding to its sway. It is only the folly of whining and publishing it to the world, and sickening every body else with their nonsense, that is ridiculous. The notion of never endeavouring to seek a second object of affection, when the first is inevitably lost, is also very detrimental. We ought never to suffer our imagination or desires to wander after impossibilities : we might as well refuse all enjoyment, because we cannot retain perpetual youth and be immortal here. Whilst there is a probability or even possibility of the attainment of the object of our desire, if it be not criminal, the mind cannot be more agreeably employed than in the pursuit, without it interferes too much with other indispensable duties. With these views, Doctor, I shall set out to-morrow for Dutchess county.

Doctor. What excuse will you make for the journey, when it is well known you spent the last winter at the southward ? I do not suppose you will avow your object.

Edgar. Then I went on business, and made no stop in that country ; but I have long had it in contemplation to pay a visit to my relations and the place of my nativity. But I must first call and see Maria myself. Perhaps on a promise of the most inviolable secrecy, I may obtain information where I can find Caroline : I have already a clue. If thou felt as much interest in it as I do, I should rather trust thee to sound her on the subject.

Doctor. You had best go yourself, if you get much out of her, you will do more than I can; and that will not be very surprising neither.

Edgar, in his interview with Maria, pressed her with as much delicacy as the urgency of his case would admit of, to let him see the letter, if there was nothing confidential in it that concerned herself. Maria answered him, that it would afford her real satisfaction to oblige him in any way that would be consistent with her plighted word to her aunt Adson, who had informed her where to direct her letters, upon the express condition that she should not communicate it to any other person.

Edgar. (With some feelings of indignation.) Did she require of you that it should be kept from me?

Maria. No, sir; oh, no! She said she had some particular reasons for it, and if I should shew the letter, you would by several parts of it discover where she is; and no arrow ever flew more directly to its mark, than you would to her; and my uncle and aunt would censure me severely, although, in reality, I think they would have more cause to thank me.

Edgar. Do you really think so?

It was finally agreed that she should retire and obliterate such parts of it as she thought proper, and let him see what remained. The following is a copy of what she permitted to remain for his inspection.

PLEASANT VALE, *August 20.*

*Caroline Adson to her dearest Friend and
Cousin, Maria Adson.*

I this day received thy affectionate and ever welcome epistle, and was thankful to hear of thy health and that of my parents and all my dear relations and acquaintance. It is sometimes said, that we never duly appreciate blessings until deprived of them; and I am inclined to believe the reflection is not without foundation. I feel you all infinitely dearer to me, since so many cruel and long miles separate us; but let me not tax the distance with cruelty, if it increase in me those sentiments which it is my delight to cherish towards my friends.

I live in a delightful situation and most agreeable family. There are not many scholars as old as myself, but one I cannot refrain from mentioning: her name is Penelope Smith, and her parents live a few miles from the school. She is said, and I believe, with much truth, to resemble me in appearance; her hair is of the same *non descript* colour, but looks extremely well *on her*. Some pretend to say there is a similarity in our voices, and I believe all strangers take us for sisters. This has induced us to adopt each other as such, and that appellation we make use of in addressing each other. I cannot restrain my womanish disposition from informing you of one circumstance; from some cause unknown

to me, she cannot tell her age any nearer than the year. She confessed that to me, and appearing somewhat distressed at it, I would not pry into the cause. Her disposition is most amiable, and I look forward to the time of parting with her with regret. Our superintendants and teachers, and most of the scholars are Quakers, and every thing in the house conducted according to their practice; the religious books are all of their authors. I have read them with much satisfaction. Clarkson's Portraiture of Quakerism is, from the description it contains of their peculiar manners and customs, as entertaining as any novel; and Barclay's Apology for their Religious Tenets, I should consider unanswerable; and if I have any religion at all, I am in principle a Quaker.

Believe me, Maria, they are not that superstitious, and misanthropic people, their singular appearance has led us to suppose; their dress and address is all that makes them appear so; they are liberal in their views, and many of them well informed. Their reasons for rejecting music are not satisfactory to me, and are chiefly, the waste of time it leads into in attaining a proficiency in it; without which it fails to please; and in the effect it has upon the mind to divert it from seriousness, religion, &c. Their arguments against the use of it in church appear to have more weight, and I believe that I could not in conscience sing with the choir, because many of the words would be untrue from my lips. What will my dear father say to this? What wilt

thou say ? (you see I have adopted their language;) thou wilt expect to see me return with a little round eared cap ; though by the bye, few girls wear them here. The young Friends dress in a tasteful manner ; nothing but their white or drab silk bonnets distinguish them ; and as to the young men, I protest I cannot say by what I can distinguish them ; and yet I fancy I can always do it : there appears a certain smoothness about the breast, perhaps from the absence of ruffles and cornered lap-pells : they wear all colors that are worn by others.

If it would not swell this letter to an extravagant extent, I should be willing to give some account of a Quaker wedding, which I received an invitation to witness. It was celebrated in the church, which is a large spacious plain building, divided into two equal divisions, instead of pews ; one of these is for the men, and the other for the sisters ; and folding doors, if I have a right understanding of it, are so contrived, as to entirely prevent communication even by sight : these are never, however, suffered to interfere with the unity of their worship ; but are put under requisition only when one sex have business relative to church discipline ; or when some charitable service is to be performed for a necessitous brother or sister, who they do not wish exposed ; for their meetings on such occasions are always carefully cleared of those who do not belong to them, and those who do not preserve the most inviolable secrecy : so that many who receive occasional assistance, especially in the

education of their children, pass in the view of the world as livers above board, and avoid the humiliating and deadening influence which conscious pauperism must create in a sensitive mind. Here so much of the property of the rich as is necessary for the support, or assistance of the poor, is considered as common stock, and the mendicant feels more like receiving his due than mere alms. But of all this I can know but little—let me then “away to the wedding.” The ceremony, as I said, was performed in the church. The young gentleman, with one of his particular young friends, (and one or two older ones who were there to assist in the ceremony,) were seated in a conspicuous and elevated seat, fronting a large congregation, as heterogeneous as three or four miles of the surrounding country could furnish; indeed, there were so many, like myself, who had come from motives of curiosity, that although an hour was allowed for silent recollection, and perhaps adoration, I found it impossible to receive any farther edification, than what I derived from the placid, serene and composed countenance of the beautiful, innocent and sweet looking-bride, who, to judge from her appearance, although evidently of a modest deportment, was far less flustered than any other person in the house. I thought all the ribbons and ruffles of a French belle could not add, but on the contrary, must detract from the beauty, as well as the simplicity of her appearance.

After the meeting, the spectators became quite impatient with suspense, and some be-

gan to leave their seats : leave was given by one of the gentlemen who sat with them to proceed. At this, there was a general, although not turbulent stir, which, with the fear that possessed me that the little thing would make some embarrassing miss before so many, set my heart to beating that I could not composedly enjoy the novel spectacle ; and I was actually so fearful of fainting, that I took off my bonnet, and I do not know but that I should yet, had not a young lady who sat next, whispered to me to know if I was going to preach. After the parties pronounced the vow, and were reseated, they signed their names to a written instrument, which was by the gentlemen in attendance placed before them. It was then audibly read, and contained a recapitulation of their names, of the places of their abode, of the consent of parents and parties concerned ; and, in fact of every thing, excepting the particulars of their worship. After this, all who felt an inclination, were invited to sign it as witnesses. This took up considerable time, and it was to me quite amusing to see how the girls would have to gripe the pen, to overcome the tremor of their hands ; and also to observe the smart looking beaux blush as they came down the galleries and walked up the long and broad aisle, to affix their names to a marriage certificate.— After this was through, I was much surprised at the unexpected sound of the clear and shrill voice of a young sister, who addressed us in a short and pertinent lecture, which brought a stillness that would admit of hearing the fall

of a pin. It had the effect, at least, of making me serious ; although there did appear to be something like a medley of marriage, death and judgment, which, from the intentness with which I attended to the whole, almost wrought my faculties in a maze.

When the meeting was finally dismissed, I received an unexpected, but pressing invitation, to accompany the weddingers to the house of the bride's father, and partake of some refreshment. The abundance and luxury of which was to me astonishing, as I had always associated with the name of Quaker, the idea of simplicity and economy. The table was decorated with elegant castors, tureens and decanters : the latter, however, much to their credit, contained nothing more ardent than lemon beer, ale, and fine bottled cider. I saw no brandy during the day, nor did any of the gentlemen indulge in more than a single glass of wine ; neither were there any cigars pouted from the lips of the young men, although some of the elder made use of pipes.

The dinner consisted of turkeys, roasted and stuffed with oysters, spices, &c. boiled chickens, covered with drawn butter and parsley ; pigs roasted whole, with oranges placed in their mouths, and spiced with cloves, nutmegs and cayenne ; surloins of beef roasted plain. These dishes were placed alternately the length of the table, and each accompanied by its appropriate sauce : such as plain and oyster gravies, potatoes, mangoes, beets, pickled butter-nuts, onions, red cabbage, celery, &c. The puddings were made with cream, butter, nut-

megs, cinnamon, essence of lemon, wine, brandy, eggs, &c. and the cakes, with the addition of rose water. The dessert consisted, besides West-India nuts, of preserved transparent musk-melons, citrons, peaches, gooseberries, currants, plumbs, and sundry other articles, which I could not recognize, as they were so disguised in sweets or bewildered in jellies.

Yet, Maria, you must not suppose that they are as much celebrated for luxury as we had supposed them to be for frugality; for it being whispered that I had expressed some surprise on the occasion, an elderly lady and relative of the family took an opportunity to speak to me aside, and apologize for the character of the Society and for the bride's parents, by saying that the lady of the house had until recently lived in New-York, and being but step-mother to the bride, she was over solicitous to manifest her good feelings towards her adopted daughter. But I forget I am only writing a letter. I must conclude this subject by adding that the afternoon was spent in conversation on different subjects, and in a walk to a hill at a small distance. No music, not even a hymn, and nothing like diversion, except putting together some maps which were dissected, into towns, counties, &c. One of the company did propose a diversion, which she recommended as both amusing and innocent, which was this: One counts a line at the head of a sheet of paper, on any subject, and then folds it over so that none but the writer knows what it is; he then pro-

claims what the last word is, and requires a line written under, that shall rhyme with it. This is done, and that folded over, then the line of another verse and its correspondent line; and so continued until the sheet is full, when it is unrolled and read to the company, and sometimes from the versatility of subjects, produces considerable merriment.

You mention about the organization of a Society of young females for charitable purposes, &c. and that the most conspicuous place is reserved for me. This honor I am neither worthy of, nor inclined to accept; for reasons, some of which, perhaps, I have derived from my new friends: for the names of girls to be published and blazoned in public, as officers, &c. appears little better than to advertise themselves for notice. There are never lacking means of dispensing charity, in a way more consistent with female delicacy and modesty, and equally beneficial to the destitute. Perhaps it may be well enough for the men; but even with them, it looks too much like blowing a trumpet before them.

My health is good, and my constitution has, I believe, fully recovered from the shock it received by that eventful whirl to Juan Fernandez; excepting that sudden frights affect me with tremor and faintings, and my dreams sometimes transport me to that desolate, though under different circumstances, delightful island. Perhaps you will soon see him who was my pilot on that occasion: assure him I shall never forget his attention and solicitude. Had it not been for the happy familiarity that sub-

sists between us, Maria, I should not have ventured to request thee to offer him my thanks for a note I received from him. Inform him that I cannot, consistent with my ideas of propriety, write to him at present; and that if I should write, it would not be in my power to give him much more information than what I supposed he already possessed. I think, Maria, you cannot guess what it is about, and I have no fear of your telling any body but the doctor; and to him it might be so new, as to make him have recourse to his hartshorn: you will have to confine the mighty secret to labor in thy own breast: but that this, nor any thing else, may make it the seat of care or trouble, or disturb its peace, or sully its angel purity, is the sincere wish, if not prayer, of, Maria, thy lonely, nay, happy

CAROLINE ADSON.

Maria Adson.

P. S. I felt, whilst writing, as if I had been actually talking with my Maria, and did not feel as if alone until I came to bid her adieu. I am in the school room, and my sister school-mates are all in the arms of each other and of Morpheus. I have no fear of ghosts or apparitions. There are real evils enough, without creating imaginary ones. Since finishing the foregoing part of my letter, I seated myself by the window to indulge my imagination with a transient view of home, and all my distant friends; at the same time my eyes were

dwelling on one of the most soul-soothing prospects imaginable. A row of tall poplars, with their branches intermingling, are but a small distance from the door, and guard the margin of the placid, broad and deep creek. The moon shines with the lustre of silver, and the trees are again exhibited in their shadows thrown across the stream, their tremulous leaves appear just on the point of becoming still, and then another gentle breeze puts them in a general rustle : the broad street and the houses on the opposite side appear light, and yet deserted of the song and hum of life and activity. I feel as if the world was deserted, and I alone left. Farewell, remember me to thy good and my kind physician : I feel under obligations to him for his unremitting care of me ; and, to his friend do not fail to convey my best respects. How sudden is the transition of feeling ! Since I again commenced writing, I felt again as if I was talking with thee : but I must—oh, I must bid thee adieu. I shall now dispose of my writing materials in their proper places, and after walking through the chamber, and taking a serious view of the little innocents, sweetly sleeping until the morning of resurrection, (if it is not sacrilege to use the term,) I shall retire to my dear Penelope ; and where, before I sleep, I shall offer prayers or tears, and for what I cannot say. But to-morrow, when I shall not feel so perfectly bewildered as now at the lonely hour of midnight, I shall be happy. Once more I repeat Farewell ! Maria, Farewell !

C. A.

Maria had erased the name of the place from whence it was dated, the name of the Creek, and some things said about the doctor, &c. and then re-entered; still looking over it as if uncertain whether she had fully completed her precautionary measures. Edgar soon went through with what was left, reading part aloud, part to himself, and making occasional observations. "What!" says he, "has friend Adson put her to a Quaker school?" (Reads.) "Why she is turning Quaker herself. I suspect she has fallen in love with some Quaker boy instead of the soldier."—"I expect," says Maria, with an unfeigned giggle, "she has fallen in love with some Quaker boy."—"Down there, I mean," says he, carelessly, as he continued to read, until he got through with the mutilated scrawl, and then folding it carefully in its proper form; "Is this superscription her writing?" said he, with an arch smile. She approached to look at it, and at the first glance cried out, "Oh, mercy, there is the post mark! what have I done?"—"Nothing very bad, I hope!" replied Edgar, laughing at her feigned terror.—"Nothing bad, I know; but when they hear you are gone to see her, will they not be likely to question me?"

Edgar. If they should trouble themselves so much as that, thou canst inform them that I already knew where she was, near enough to answer my purpose. A boarding school is not a very obscure or difficult place to find, when we know within a few miles of its situation. It was mostly curiosity that prompted me to

trouble thee about the letter; and, in return, I shall be very happy to be the faithful bearer of any dispatches, however important, that thou mayest have for her.

Maria. Unimportant, you was going to say. No, sir; I dare not write to her by you: it will make me too knowing about your journey. You must kiss her for me; I enjoin it upon you.

Edgar. (Taking her around her neck.) I will carry one from you for her.

It was in the forepart of September that Edgar, with the approbation of his parents, left home, to spend the winter in Dutchess county, with his mother's relations. His close application to business during the summer appeared to justify his intention, and render such a release from care necessary: For, during the preceding summer, it had by all his acquaintance been remarked that he had allowed himself but a small, if any, share of relaxation; avoiding company, except where it was unavoidable. The true cause of this alteration was by many suspected, to whom the pertinacity of Mr. Adson against Edgar was unaccountable. The effect of Edgar's strong attachment was discoverable in the exquisite polish and sensibility it gave to his manners in general, but to the fair sex in particular, all of whom he respected on Caroline's account; their wishes or embarrassments he could discover and relieve before another would have suspected them; and this was performed with such grace, good nature and unaffected politeness, as rendered him an idol with that dependent, but amiable part of the creation.

On the morning of his departure he took leave of his father's family, and his friends and particular acquaintance, who parted with such marks of affection and respect as is seldom witnessed in a family or neighborhood: they continued to follow him with their eyes, until he was out of sight, and one of the family threw an old shoe after him, as a certain omen of good luck.

The day, of course, we would have to be one of the finest in early autumn: he passed through some settlements and villages along the Lake, and then leaving the new and unfinished turnpike, took a road passable with a chaise only on a walk, through a continued and stately forest or wilderness, which would in little more than a day's journey again lead to one better calculated for his favorite mode of travelling. The only inhabitants on this route were scattered at a distance of from ten to twenty miles apart, and consisted of some necessitous or adventurous characters, who subsisted by levying small contributions from travellers, in return for such refreshments as they could furnish, which consisted generally of venison, bear-meat, fine potatoes, maple sugar and whiskey, when their jug was not empty. Edgar was well informed of their circumstances, and had provided himself with such additions to these articles, as should not only supply the deficiencies of the inns on this part of the route; but his mother, out of kindness, and exaggerating the difficulties, notwithstanding all his remonstrances, had loaded him down with more gingerbread

than could be peddled off at a general training.

No incident occurred during the day to excite his attention from the object of his journey, until in its decline he met two young men with knapsacks on their backs, and each an axe under his arm, with their faces flushed with heat and perspiration, and straining every nerve to make good speed. Probably, they thought to gain the next log tavern before night; the distance to which they enquired, without halting; but looking back for an answer, it took some moments for Edgar to recollect or form a judgment, and by the time he answered them, they had got some distance from him: they then said, "You will soon meet with trouble." They did not say how, and Edgar did not think enough of it to enquire. After making the next turn in the road, he came to a marshy tract of land, where for a bridge trunks of trees were laid transversely and contiguous to each other without being flattened, over which horses accustomed to them will pass with tolerable facility; otherwise with reluctance and difficulty, especially if incommoded with blinds and checks. The inequality of the surface of these causeways communicates to wheel carriages the most intolerable jolting imaginable, the wheels alternately ascending and descending the upper section of the large logs. He had scarce entered on this trembling bridge when he discovered half a dozen Indians, standing some on either side of the way, and waiting his approach. At the sight of them Edgar concluded the young men he had met, having come

from the lower and old settled part of the state, and unacquainted with the Indians any further than what they had heard of their most savage characteristics, had been panic struck at meeting with them in the wilderness, and were making so much haste in order to make a safe encampment for the night, and that it was the difficulty he had been warned of: but he was too well acquainted from his father's extensive dealing with them, with their character and the political relation they stood in with the United States, to have any apprehensions of danger. On the contrary, the sight of them was quite agreeable, as he had had so little variety through the day. When he came up he perceived they were laughing, and highly amused at seeing his horse walk so awkwardly over the logs; after greeting them familiarly with the term *Sagola!* and having cleared the causeway a short distance, he understood better what the young men referred to; for he discovered a huge tree had fallen directly across the road and completely prevented him from proceeding further; he was not long in deciding upon an expedient, but immediately shouted for the Indians: he was promptly answered, and in a few minutes discovered them coming like deers, Indian file, their line apparently regulated by their relative speed. He desired them to assist him in lifting over his carriage, after having unharnessed and leapt his horse over: this they did with great glee and loud shouts of laughter. Amongst other articles which Edgar's friends had put up for his accommodation on this part of his journey, was

a small elegant mahogany case, containing four square cut glass bottles, holding a pint each, of wine and different kinds of ardent spirits: as the things were taken out of the carriage to lighten it, this article particularly attracted the Indians' attention; they delivered it to each other, that all by turns might enjoy the pleasure of handling it: after every thing was prepared ready to start, Edgar applied the key to it, and delivering a couple of the bottles to them, desired them to empty them speedily: to this they consented without further persuasion; each bottle circulated through the whole gang several times, and as it was applied to one of their mouths the eyes of all the others were fixed upon it with the most piercing sharpness, to see that he did not settle it below a proper proportion, of which if they discovered danger, they did not fail simultaneously to apprise him. When they tasted a new bottle, and perceived it to be of a different kind, they laughed, shouted and clapped their hands; which ludicrous scene, in spite of the pity he felt for them, set Edgar also laughing, and this in return so encouraged them that they made every hill and grotto within a mile resound with their hilarity.

Just as the shades of night began to throw the gathering gloom of approaching twilight in his path, he perceived through the vistas of the trees a light, which indicated that he was approaching a clearing; it consisted of a few acres so recently reclaimed from the wilderness, that the stumps remained as numerous evidences of the prowess of their inva-

ders ; a log house and barn of equal dimensions were the only visible improvements : before the former, suspended from the limb of a tree reserved for that purpose, was a square piece of board painted with Spanish brown and ornamented with significant hieroglyphics of a black bottle, with a current of liquor obligingly ascending from it, and falling over into a tumbler that stood by its side, and under this some uncouth letters designed to exhibit the name of the tavern keeper.

A sensible looking man below the middle age of life, with but few words and without any appearance of pleasure at receiving a guest of Edgar's appearance, began civilly to assist in unharnessing his horse, and inquired how he should be ordered in regard to water, feed, &c. Edgar observed to him, that as his horse had not been used for some time previous to his entry upon his journey, of which this was the first day, he was fearful the impression of the collar might produce swelling, and desired him to wash his shoulders with a pint of whiskey : The landlord replied that cold water would answer as good, if not a better purpose. Edgar knew that himself, but as he never drank any thing, he wished to convince his host that his guest was not disposed to be parsimonious. The poor tavern keeper feared from the appearances of things he had a customer above the rank of his accommodations, and who, if like some rich people, incapable of making allowance for circumstances, might cause him much mortifica-

tion ; but he soon perceived his apprehensions were groundless.

A cow was licking the inside of a dinner pot by the door, and by erecting her ears and looking earnestly at the door, demanded her customary allowance of slop ; several white head-urchins were sitting in regular gradation of elevation on the wood pile ; when he entered the house, it appeared in every respect to be as well conducted as circumstances would permit. The landlady's countenance, though somewhat younger and handsomer than her husband, exhibited an index of the same fears. It appeared as if those muscles which draw the angles of the mouth upwards in a smile from long (what the lawyers call) ' non user,' had lost their powers. Edgar seated himself in one corner of the fire-place, and remained, without troubling her with conversation, with his eyes fixed on the fire, whilst all the children came and occupied the other. At length discovering a large kettle over the fire, whilst the landlady was gone out to milk the cow, he enquired of the oldest daughter if it was designed for suppawn, and was answered in the affirmative ; this was a favorite dish with the traveller, and in his early days, when he lived in Dutchess county, had been a principal article of his diet, and he could say with propriety as the poet Joel Barlow,

" Its constellation ruled my natal morn,
And all my bones are made of Indian corn."

Before this he had felt some hesitation about calling for supper, for fear of embarrass-

ing his hostess, but after what he understood from the girl, he informed her that he should be glad of a little supper, if convenient, if not, he could make out with what he had in his trunk. She replied they had no bread in the house, having let some travellers have, in the course of the day, all they had. Edgar appealed to the hasty pudding concern, and this point was easily disposed of. After the landlord had arranged his out door concerns, he seated himself also by the fire, which was as much necessary for a substitute for candles as for its warmth, and took two of his youngest children on his knees, with which burden, like the camel, he rested from the cares of the day: neither party being disposed for conversation, each was left to his own reflections. What Edgar's were, we have some suspicions, but the landlord's countenance betrayed no clue to his. The landlady demurely stirred in successive handfulls of meal, and the children were impatiently waiting for their evening's repast. A rap at the door was answered with, 'walk in: ' a foot traveller, something advanced in life, entered, and before he stepped a foot from the door asked "can I have entertainment?"—"Yes, sir." He then advanced and took his seat, after laying aside his knapsack. This was the first circumstance that had occurred to disconcert Edgar, who was apprehensive he might be under the necessity of taking him as a bedfellow, or be compelled to refuse to sleep with him; either of which was disagreeable. He was not troubled long with these reflections before a second

person also knocking and asking precisely the same question, and being answered also without hesitation in the affirmative, put him at ease on that subject, as he now perceived they must have two spare beds. Within five minutes a third (making four guests in the whole) entered with the same formalities, and again made an even number of lodgers. But the last, who was a decent and agreeable looking young man, he had no objections to accepting as a bed-fellow. The table being arranged the landlord turned short round to it, saying, who has a mind for a game of pudding and milk with me? Edgar and the young man accepted the challenge; but the former, fearing they should reduce the children's share of the milk, thought it as favorable a time as he could have to dispose of his stock of gingerbread. He took from his trunk two or three cakes, of shape and dimensions corresponding with the apparent size of a full moon. after it has attained to its meridian height, and gave to his landlady to distribute amongst them.—The other two travellers having a supply of provisions with them, spread their cloth on their knees, which served for a table. One of them, the oldest in the company, was also accommodated with a bottle of whiskey, from which, during his repast, he took such copious draughts to moisten his dry provisions, that it opened the way to sociability amongst the company, and made the evening, which commenced with the most positive indications of dullness and ennui pass with the highest glee and hilarity. The old man commenced by intro-

ducing a discourse with Edgar, very minutely and freely enquiring his name, the name of his father, and his place of nativity ; all of which Edgar as freely answered, without hesitation and with apparent pleasure. After these enquiries were satisfied, the old Fox informed the company that he knew all his relations, who at present resided in the place Edgar had given as his native town, and that the family were remarkable for being good singers ; and that he knew Edgar could sing, and requested him to accommodate them with a song, as he himself was extremely fond of that kind of music. Edgar remonstrated and objected to the probability of his account of his relations, as he knew they were all Quakers, and brought that in favour of himself as an excuse : but all to no kind of purpose ; he found he must either sing or plead all the evening, or pretend to be angry. Of all these, he chose the former, and without much difficulty went through the Exile of Erin, which being new to the whole company, was very pleasing, and the old man triumphed in having convinced the company, he had stated no more than he knew. The other young man being also called upon in his turn, sung with such proficiency that it convinced Edgar he understood music, and he asked him if he ever played the flute ? “ O, yes, sir,” said he ; “ I find the flute much company for me since I came into the country.” Edgar had an elegant one with him, but understood but little of playing upon it himself ; he immediately brought it forward and pre-

sented it to the stranger, who modestly requested Edgar to play first, but easily accepted his excuse and proved himself to be a proficient with that soothing instrument. The landlord had thrown off his reserve since supper, and proved himself to be all that Edgar at first took him to be for ability, and who possessed an uncommon degree of shrewdness, sitting near to Edgar, and observing the flute occasionally played a dancing tune, he whispered to him that his wife was a great dancer and wished him to urge her to dance. Edgar immediately proposed it to her: when he had first arrived, there was nothing he would have thought himself less likely to succeed in; but her fears respecting the temper of her splendid guest being dissipated, and her misanthropic disposition, the effect of a sudden alteration in circumstances, a separation from her relations and the scenes of her youth, and a rapid succession of children, being softened by Edgar's liberality, and the effect of the music, which recalled to her recollection the days of other years; he proceeded to importune her on the subject, whilst her husband slyly encouraged him to persevere, and the old man also taking it up in earnest, offered Edgar for her partner, and he could do no less then, than to accede to it, although he said he would give the privilege to the other young man if she preferred him, but he said his office was to be musician, and during the time that this importunity was going on, he would frequently commence on different tunes, which would evidently lighten her in the chair, and

confirmed them in the belief of what her husband continued to persist in, that she was a good dancer, and had been brought up in Connecticut, in the Presbyterian church. Her children were all asleep, excepting her oldest daughter; who might be between twelve and fourteen years of age, and who had placed herself by the chair of her mother, in a position that would not admit of her sitting much lower, and manifested the most exquisite enjoyment of the entertainment.

The importunity of the company, and Edgar's standing before her insisting on her dancing with him, seconded by her own secret inclination to show her proficience in the science of agility, prevailed over her acquired temper, so far that she began to question what they should dance, so as to be sure before she arose that it should be something she was acquainted with, until pretending to get up to go to the other part of the room for something, in passing by she took a sly peep in the glass, to see if she looked any as she had once; fortunately the light of the fire was not so brilliant as to manifest every trifling depredation of time and care, although they had deprived her of a considerable share of what never fails to please, where it does not excite envy. She adjusted her hair, said her husband would tease her to death about it afterwards; but if he ever did tell of it he might do his own dancing for the future; she then looked half consentingly towards the floor, which Edgar perceiving, led her out, and the young man taking the favorable moment struck up a lively

tune, and giving the signal by a stamp of his foot. No French mademoiselle ever surpassed the agility and precision with which she kept time with the instruments, or the grace of her turns and reels; her partner was so astonished at it, that in watching her he missed the step himself, and could scarcely avoid stopping in the midst of a figure to observe her; their musician, with equal astonishment, kept his eyes on them, and played with great animation double the usual length of time; and when he ceased a general burst of applause produced what for a long time had been a stranger, a smile, on her countenance; and the evening, which commenced with uncomfortable, melancholy reflections, on the part of some, and sour misanthropy with others, without the aid of wine, but by the means of innocent mirth, ended in cheerfulness, restoring each to that state of mind, which, but for artificial cares would often return, and retard the progress of decay of both the mental and corporeal faculties.

CHAPTER IV.

To love, to be beloved again, and know
A gulph between us, aye, 'tis misery,
————— Better far,
To weep o'er treachery or broken vows.

Athenæum.

At Albany, understanding that by the line of steam boats he could make a trip to New-York and return within a few days, he concluded to give his horse time to recover from the fatigue of several days driving, and himself an opportunity of enjoying the delightful prospects and variety that such a voyage could not fail to bestow. The morning of their departure was without a cloud in the horizon, and the atmosphere so nicely tempered between heat and cold, and its influence so genial to the mind, that although the noble vessel was thronged with passengers, who most probably had their secret views and adverse fortunes; yet when she left the wharf and passed majestically like a brilliant and living meteor off in front of the city, every person on board wore pleasure in his countenance, and paced the deck with deliberate strides of complacency; whilst the ladies gathered in clusters to concentrate their delights and make their mutual observations.

On the wharves, although the scene was no novelty, yet, for a moment, all business was suspended and every eye rivetted to this stupendous monument of American ingenuity and enterprise, which bore the name of her illustrious projector. Edgar was much gratified at feeling so much at leisure in the midst of so splendid an assemblage of people, from, perhaps every quarter of the civilized world. When his attention was not absorbed by the romantic islands or the scenery on shore, he could, without breach of privilege, pass from group to group, and listen to the subjects that engaged their discussion, which would take in the whole circle of sciences.

One of the passengers he soon discovered was a co-religionist of his, and his singular appearance effectually prevented all possibility of remaining incog. if he had been disposed for it; but to this he seemed no ways inclined; his garb, which was as plain as was ever worn by Job Scott, appeared to be considered by himself rather as a badge of honor than a cross; although it could hardly be said it was an honor to him, and most certainly he was none to it. There were several gentlemen on board of the first respectability and information, who made Agriculture the subject of their discourse; and Edgar was mortified at observing this character interposing himself upon their notice, rudely breaking in upon their observations, and contradicting all their theories, by relating facts of his own experience, unsupported, however, by any thing further than his own word; whilst they

listened to him with a look, in which he thought he could discover incredulity towards his assertions, respect for his cloth, pity for the Society whose reputation suffered, and contempt for him, it strengthened Edgar in the opinion which he before had entertained, that a peculiarity of garb and language operated as a facility for hypocrites, and gave occasion for the Society to be often unjustly inculpated. He knew that his own appearance did not identify him with his fellow professor, if it had been otherwise his mortification would have been greatly increased.

When they came in sight of the Kaatskill mountains, their sublimity so elevated Edgar, that to a person who stood near him, he expressed the satisfaction it would yield to him to pay them a visit. In return, he was informed that a temporary but extensive house of entertainment was erected on the summit, which had become a place of resort to the fashionable and curious, and that many of the passengers were now bound there, and at their invitation, he immediately chose to relinquish his voyage to New-York, for this new object. Such as had ladies under their protection, were landed at Kaatskill village, where carriages would be procured; but several young men, amongst whom was Edgar, were landed at an obscure place, called West-Camp, a few miles below, with the intention of performing a pedestrian tour to the Pine Orchard, which was, at this place, in view, and apparently but at a small distance.

They set out in high spirits, not doubting but

that they should arrive in time to view from that height the setting sun. In this they were mistaken, for by the time they had arrived in the valley at the mountain's base, the shades of evening had overtaken them, and the mountain before them exhibited a huge and undistinguishable pile of matter of the most inaccessible aspect. The company were compelled to separate, and procure lodging in the neighboring farm houses, where they were civilly received; and by the time the first streaks of light looked into the eastern windows, the company again united and sat off with the hope of gaining an altitude favorable to observe the rising of the sun, since they had failed in seeing it set. After much exertion they succeeded in ascending to a considerable distance up the sides of the mountain, when they halted to observe the effects of the first rays of the sun on the extensive landscape below, the inferior mountains in the surrounding country, the hills, woods, grazing fields, meadows, fields of corn, fences, villages, rivers, lakes; and to crown the whole, the noble Hudson presented the appearance of an extensive and variegated map, inspired with life and reality. They particularly noticed the succession of smokes that issued from their farm houses, one after the other, as the fires were kindled, according as their habits of rising were early or late.

Edgar retired to a rock that offered for a seat, and taking out a pencil, wrote the following lines as an impromptu.

Sublimar objects why despise,
Or why do preachers slander ;
The world is spread before my eyes,
Can Heaven itself be grander ?

Ah, now I own the sacred tale
That Heaven is built on high ;
I feel its influence in the gale
That gently whispers by :

But yet that vale of wood and mead,
I see beneath me glow,
Invalidates the sacred creed
That hell is placed below.

But hell below, or heaven above,
Or worlds that intervene,—
Are trifles light as air, when love
Hath pow'r from all to wean.

For all I see below, above,
Can scarce my heart incline,
To yield its worship, give its love,
But to an Idol's shrine.

Tho' blest with health and wealth and friends
And gaiety about me ;
Ah, what is health, or wealth, or friends,
O Caroline, without thee !

The three first verses he read to his companions, designing to conceal the others ; but they, perceiving he had suppress a part, pleasantly threatened to make him suffer the fate of Esop, if he did not read the whole, and

compelled him by their importunities to give it up to them.

The people with whom our party had lodged had advised them to take something of a diagonal course, which they pointed out to them, and which would lengthen the distance, but render the ascent more easy. But one of the party, in opposition to this, proposed to strike what he called a *bee line*, directly to their object, and conquer all the obstacles in their way. This was unluckily acceded to by the rest, and led them into many difficulties, having frequently to assist each other by turns up perpendicular rocks to a great height, and to the great danger of a disastrous retrograde. It was past 12 o'clock before they arrived at the mountain hotel, where they met a brilliant assemblage of gentlemen and ladies, from the counties of Columbia and Dutchess, and other parts of the state, preparing for a splendid ball: but our romantic pedestrians, from their excessive fatigue, were prepared for any thing else, rather than dancing; and those who parted with them at Kaatskill, rallied them without quarter. After partaking of refreshment, they retired to rest, in order if possible, to be in a situation to enjoy the diversion of the evening.

Although Edgar was not superstitiously principled against dancing, as has appeared on a former occasion, when it is practised simply as an exercise or diversion from the impulse of the moment; yet he was decidedly averse to such appointments that led to such expensive preparations, and competitions in

gaudy dress, which seldom fail {to promote jealousies and envy, instead of philanthropy and good feelings. If he should meet with his young friends on a green, or other suitable place, and the humor of the moment should prompt them to cut capers and exercise their corporeal agility, he would raise no serious objections ; but where well informed people, capable of rational and intelligent conversation, should make appointments from month to month, and spend part of the intervening time in preparation for it, he considered it below the character of a man of principle and elevated views.

In a couple of hours Edgar awoke from so sound a sleep, that at first he did not recollect where he was, nor the time of day ; he was, however, soon at rights on that subject, and on viewing, found the house totally deserted by the company, with which it was animated but so short a time before. On enquiring of the servants he was informed, that they were gone to view a water-fall at some distance. He followed and found them formed into a crescent around the spot from where the waters take their adventurous leap : their position was exactly where curiosity to look below, and a prudent care to keep the centre of gravity above, would respectively place them, according as the one or the other most governed. After their curiosity was satisfied and they were returning to the hotel, Edgar, who was nearly in the rear, observed a lady to turn her head, and give him a short and earnest look : at the same time he fancied

her countenance appeared familiar ; but after casting it for a moment in his mind, he concluded it was accidental, and thought no more of it, until, being assembled in the ball-room, their eyes again met. Edgar now looked more earnestly at her, and then with his brows a little lowered over his eyes, and a studious countenance, endeavoured to convince her he was trying to recollect her, which brought a slight indication of a smile on her lips, on which he instantly advanced to her, and on beginning to frame an apology for forgetting her name, he recollected it was Emeline, at whose house Caroline and her father lodged on their way to the boarding school ; he was pleased that so far from home, and so unexpectedly, he had found one person whom he had seen before. Although he could not lay claim to an acquaintance with her, he enquired after the other part of the family with at least seeming interest ; and she, in return, enquired after Caroline, and if she had returned home. The party who climbed the mountain with Edgar, had so far recovered their spirits as to be active in the arrangements. The company was so large as to require special care that none should be deprived of their share in the diversion ; they had not forgotten Edgar, and knowing he was a stranger, and that he had come from their invitation, they had his name down at the head of the list ; for this Edgar had but little disposition to thank them, and endeavored to excuse himself ; but this they would not consent to. One of his comrades was searching for him.

through the company, and found him whilst talking with Emeline, and informed him his name was called, and that he would introduce him to a lady for a partner. "But, perhaps," said he, "you would prefer this lady. I did not know as you had any acquaintance here. I will not deprive you of the lady of your choice. You will please to walk forward; the music waits for you." Edgar thought it was no time to reason with either his friend or himself, on the immorality of dancing: he therefore asked Emeline if he might presume on their short acquaintance so far, as to request her to do him the honor to dance with him?

Emeline. Nothing would be more agreeable; but I should interfere with this gentleman's arrangements.

"Not in the least," exclaimed the young man, "any lady would be proud to have him for a partner; but I have not promised him: so step along, step along if you please." He was so anxious to have no time lost, that he kept dancing himself with impatience.

Edgar had asked Emeline carelessly if she had seen Caroline since he was at their house, without supposing it possible, but was answered in the affirmative, just as they were interrupted.

When Edgar and Emeline came forward, the floor was cleared, and a few moments detention on their account made them an object of general observation, and a whisper of approbation at their appearance, from heads inclined sideways together, ran through the as-

sembly. As soon as they had passed down, Edgar, quite impatient, led his partner to a seat and enquired when and where she had seen Caroline.

Emeline. I saw her here something like three months since on a private party.

Edgar. Is it possible! can you not be mistaken? but of course you spoke to her.

Emeline. I knew her well, several of our family were with me and knew it to be her: for we have always agreed she was the handsomest girl we ever saw: but—

Edgar. You of course spoke with her. You would not see her at such a place as this and not speak to her; then certainly you would find out whether it was her.

Emeline. There is something mysterious about it. I do not wish to put you to the same perplexity I have been at myself to reconcile it; for I have no doubt you are interested in every thing that relates to her.

Edgar. What dost thou say! there was something mysterious in it that perplexed thee? There is something mysterious in her having been here at all to me, but it is possible: her parents never restrain her inclinations, they are so well regulated; no doubt they have given orders for her to be indulged in any thing that will contribute to her health or contentment—what passed between you? I have a curiosity on this subject more than ordinary.

Emeline. That I am well satisfied of, or I would have let you know before. For some reasons, best known to herself, and no doubt,

some good reasons, she did not wish to be recognized by me. She professed she did not know me.

Edgar. (with a distrustful shake of the head) No, Emeline, no, that could not be true of Caroline; there must be some mistake.

Emeline. Believe, sir, that I am mistaken. I wish you should, but I can but believe she had some good reasons for her conduct, which I neither know, nor can conceive any idea of.

Edgar. Why you have a good eye—a quick recollection; you knew me before I did you: but how can I believe! I mean, how can it be reconciled with Caroline. Please to tell me all the circumstances.

Emeline. I never was more mortified. When I first saw her, I ran to her and was going to kiss her with the highest pleasure; for when she parted with me, she kissed me with tears in her eyes: but she started back with affright; you never saw an assumed part acted with such perfection: she turned ten times more red than her beautiful hair, though by the bye, her hair is not red, but something approaching to it. She protested I must be mistaken, that she never was at Hudson in her life, &c.

Edgar. Then I—— it was not Caroline; no circumstance possible under heaven could induce her—— who was with her; what company?

Emeline. Her gallant had the appearance of a military officer, and my brother said he

belonged to the United States service ; and he asked him if the lady in company with him, had not come from a boarding school in Dutchess county, and he answered in the affirmative, and enquired if he was acquainted with her ; to which my brother carelessly answered that he was not, but that his sister imagined that she had seen her before.

It was out—Edgar had hitherto flattered himself that Emeline was mistaken, but now he yielded to the conviction that she was correct. He knew that the captain was in some part of that country, and concluded that Mr. Adson had on that account placed his daughter at the school, which before was unaccountable to him in some of its circumstances. He thought it probable also that he had represented to her teachers that the captain had been a member of his family, and possessed his confidence. This was like a dagger plunged into his bosom ; he inadvertently let fall an expression which seldom fell from his lips, and Emeline saw that this decided the point in his mind : but in a manner not to contribute to his peace. It was vain for him to dissemble his distress. Emeline wished now to know a little more about it. You know this officer ; do you ? She has such a friend or acquaintance—has she ?

Edgar. I suspect, indeed she has, but—

Emeline waited some moments for him to proceed, but perceiving he did not, said, “ You appear to be deeply interested in her. I knew it before when you called at our house ; we all knew it ; but I would not have you

be discouraged : she can explain it all to you, and you cannot take too much pains for her : she will amply reward you. You must tell her to call upon us on her return and explain herself. I will accept any apology."

"Angel of consolation," said Edgar, "so long as I could be with thee, I should never die for her." This was a compliment for her gratuitous attempt to allay his jealousy—it was not strictly his feelings on the subject, although he admired Emeline.

At this juncture their discourse was interrupted by something which drew the attention of the whole company to the upper end of the room, and Edgar arising, as if to discover what it was, others pressed forwards and separated him from Emeline : when he found he was unobserved he left the room, muttering to himself—

"Ah ! little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power and affluence surround;
They who, their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel, riot waste ;
Ah, little think they whilst they dance along,
How many feel, this very moment, death,
And all the sad variety of pain."

The exhilarating sounds of the violin were now, to him, transformed to a sonorous scream of continued cat calls, and the dancers appeared, like puppets dangling by joints, and the splendid assemblage of smiling countenances.

ces, were insufficient to render him insensible to the sudden demolition of all his imaginary castles of happiness, on the tapis of a union with Caroline; he sallied forth but the night was too much illuminated by the rays of Cynthia, already riding high, to harmonise with the gloom, that spread like a tornado over his mind. Almost the whole of Dutchess and Columbia counties were distinguishable by moonlight; which also shed an equivocal light through the tall forest in which he wandered, careless, without regarding what course he took, nor how far he proceeded: he felt an unconquerable reluctance to pause and consider the occasion of the sudden transition in his mind, which like the fall of Adam seemed to affect the whole creation. All he suffered himself to remember, was, that Caroline was lost, that all his hopes, his life, was gone; a state of mind approaching to madness governed his actions; the thoughts of summoning philosophy to his assistance would cross his mind, but he despised the idea, and chose to suffer and resign himself to all the horrors of despair. Caroline, said he, is never to be mine; her charms, and her more charming company, are to soothe and delight another: I am left alone in the world, and the world is left to me in exchange, a miserable, a despicable compensation: creation will smile no more to me; every beauty of it will enhance my misery, when I can no more share it with her, without whom every thing is vapid and tasteless. In this state of mind he climbed the rocks or descended the precipices as they interfered with his course;

whilst the idea of danger, if it crossed his mind at all, was the only circumstance that afforded a ray of delight. The reflection that perhaps Caroline's happiness would be promoted by it, scarcely appeased his discontented and distracted mind : he was tempted to regret the waves had not swallowed them together ; then checking himself in his unhallowed ravings—he would say what selfishness, what folly, what meanness in love, it is myself, my own happiness I seek, it is myself I love ; that she is happy will not satisfy me—but it shall ! if she be happy I will rejoice although I am miserable. With these reflections he continued his uncertain course, sometimes sliding down the steep surfaces of rocks without knowing the distance of descent or acuteness of dip, until he brought up at the bottom, until the moon having gradually shrunk behind the mountain, he was left in such absolute darkness, that yielding to it, and to the fatigue he had undergone since landing at West Camp, he stretched himself on a rock, and after in vain raising his head to discover what company he had, that kept a rustling in the leaves, and scratching on the trunks of the trees, he fell into a sound sleep.

Sleep on, discons'late lover ! whilst around
Thy rocky couch the writhing panthers bound ;
Unconscious thou of all but love's alarms,
The gods protect thee from all other harms ;
Thy fev'rish brain to calmer dreams incline,
Once more to embrace thy darling Caroline.

The first beams of the morning sun had gilded the top of the mountain, and the nocturnal prowlers of the forest had retired to their dens, before Edgar again awoke to the recollection of the scenes of the preceding night, and the fatal intelligence which had driven him to despair, all of which seemed to him like a dream, as with his limbs chilled and shivering he sat and listened to the approaching hounds. At length he discovered two of them ascending a ravine, sometimes passing under the projections of rocks, or leaping over detached fragments. The humidity of the morning dew retaining the scent of the animal which they followed, encouraged them to follow with great animation: their long tails were elevated, and kept in such constant motion, that they were lacerated with the sharp rocks, and their sides from them spattered with blood: intent upon their object, they passed within a few rods of him, just raising their eyes; and he felt a sense of pleasure in listening to the sound of their exhilarating voice, until it died on his ears. He had not altered his position, nor resolved upon what course to take, when he perceived a hunter following up the glen, the course of the hounds, he approached within a few rods before he discovered any person in his path, he then stopped short and regarded Edgar with mute astonishment, until he smiled, "have the dogs passed this way?" says he. Edgar replied "they have so, they are just out of hearing." He then came up, and looking at him more earnestly seemed inclined to pass

on, but stopping again, he said : “ Where have you come from ? I started from the foot of the mountain before daybreak ! ” To this Edgar was not in the humour to answer.— “ What brought you here ? ” said the hunter again. “ My feet, I believe, by the looks of my shoes ; ” said Edgar, observing for the first that they were cut to pieces. “ Your feet, sir ; I did not suppose you had come on your head ! ” retorted the hunter, “ have you been here all night ? ”

Edgar. I slept here on this rock, I believe ; I awoke here at least.

After a long pause, the hunter remarked, “ I believe you know but little about it yourself : it is no common thing to meet such a lady-looking man as you are on the mountain, with your fine clothes, and gold watch-chain : where is your gun ? I have heard of very respectable people getting crazy, and straying off, and if that is the case, you had best own it, and I’ll take care of you, any way : if you want my assistance you shall have it, I have started an old she wolf, and the bounty on her head would be a round sum ; but I’ll let her go, and wait upon your honor : if you have slept here, you want your breakfast. I have got some bitters here, (taking out a bottle of whiskey) though I don’t know as you’ll drink rye in the sheaf, as some call it. Edgar began to consider himself obligated to treat him with more courtesy, as he discovered in him traits of real benevolence ; and as he found it necessary for himself to make some exertions towards returning to the hotel, he concluded

to accept of a swallow of his stimulus, but objected to the hunter's being detained or diverted from his pursuit of the wolf, to assist him, as the bounty might be an object. But the hunter replied that the bounty would be no object to him, in comparison to the pleasure of assisting a fellow creature in distress, even, says he, if I was sure of getting the cur, which I a'nt by a grand sight, for I expect she'll run into some hole in the rocks, where the d**l can't squeeze in after her:—where do you live—where do you wish to go to? we can follow this gully to the foot of the mountain, and find a house sooner than any other way.

Edgar. How far are we from the Pine Orchard? I must go there and pay my bill, or they'll think I've run away: dost thou know the place.

Hunter. Indeed I do, I knew it before there was a stick amiss: it is three miles about in a direct line; you'll find a rugged path on't.

Edgar having consented to the hunter's piloting him, they proceeded a diagonal course up the ravine, until they turned south upon the summit of the mountain. The world again burst upon his view, as if placed before them by enchantment: for a moment he was animated with the prospect; but the chilling recollection that all hopes of the attainment of the object of his journey being blasted, deprived him of the pleasure he would have otherwise derived from having within his view, the very place which contained it. He enquired, however, of his guide if he could point out to him in what part of their prospect the town of

Plainville was situated. The old man took him by his shoulders, and squaring his face towards the southeast, desired him to notice a low, regular shaped mountain, that extended from a northeast to a southwest direction ; it is Stesink mountain, said he, it looks from here as if a man might set astride of it, but it is considerable of a hill ; nothing, you know, but heaven itself can look high from here ; the place you spoke of lays just at its southern extremity, and is distant from here about fifty miles—forty miles on an air line.

Edgar was possessed of a healthy constitution and athletic symmetry, took great delight in exercise, his deportment in general reserved, his countenance thoughtful, his eye not the most agreeable, but when taken in connection with his brow, possessed a scrutinizing feature : his appearance, on the whole, rather forbidding to familiarity, unless when he noticed an individual by nodding or bowing to him, or when he spoke, which would give to his countenance quite another character. He was inclined to a sanguine temperament and exquisite sensibility ; his heart could melt at the tale of woe, or kindle with indignation at the report of villainy or oppression ; the crying of a child would move him with reflections on the miseries of the world ; and the sound of soothing music on “ the spirit-stirring drum and shrill fife,” would affect him with corresponding emotions. He was himself conscious of his sensitive constitution, and governed it with such success, that he passed amongst his acquaintance for a man

possessing a mild and agreeable temper. He was sensible that these properties, in opposition to a phlegmatic habit, were the materials necessary to the formation of every estimable character; and that it was only when, uncontrolled by reason, that they became engines of destruction to the peace and happiness of individuals or communities. To the necessitous tales of the poor within his circle, he always listened with kindness and respect, and if he could not always relieve them, they never had cause to repent their confidence: his interest in their case, and the encouragement they always received from him, made them depart with some relief, and they never failed to eulogize him to the next person they met with. At all occasional assemblies in his own vicinity, every one who met his glance of eye advanced to give him their hand; the poor, because it was a pleasure to them to have enquiries after the health and welfare of their families, with as much interest and politeness as was extended to the rich. It was from the same benevolent disposition, and not from coquetry, that he treated all the female part of society with the most unremitting attention and politeness, insomuch that some who could not lay claim to those superficial attractions which regulate the manners of clowns and dandies, derived no inconsiderable satisfaction from his attention. In fine, wherever known, he was considered by both sexes, as without an equal, either in person or manners. The older part of the Society to which he belonged were somewhat uneasy at his departure

from the simplicity of dress peculiar to them; for it must be acknowledged, that he would hardly by his appearance be recognized as of their cast: he received, with great urbanity and apparent submissiveness, occasional lectures on the subject; but his friends felt but little disposition to find fault with one whom every body else recommended.

As Edgar was silently following the knight of the woods as he selected his path through the obstructions which lay in their way, the latter suddenly turned, and with a wild turn to his eye balls, desired him to listen. He appeared to hold his breath for several minutes, during which time the distant yells of the hounds broke faintly on his own ear; when they had listened a few moments longer, they ascertained that they were coming towards them. "Let's hurry," said he; "they have not holed her: she is coming for the east side of the mountain and must pass between them two ledges, if she ha'n't gone by a ready." They seated themselves under a crag, where they would neither be discovered nor see the wolf until she came directly opposite them. The sound of the dogs became every moment more loud and distinct, the hunter raised the pan of his rifle, stirred the priming, pressed his thumb nail across the edge of his flint, and then composedly lowering it the length of his arms, whispered to Edgar,—“She, there, the dogs wouldn't scream so irregular if they wasn't close haul upon her.” At length, with the most vociferous yells, they entered the space between the ledges and ap-

peared just ready to pass ; with a disappointed look, the hunter said, “ we are too late ; she has gone by.” They stepped around the point of rock from their hiding place to stop the dogs and take them off, when within three jumps of them they met an enormous large she wolf, and at her breaking her motion in discovering a new enemy in front, the dogs fastened upon her. She had one under forthwith, and the other fastened upon her in a part not likely to disable her. The hunter brought his rifle to his shoulder, vociferating, “ What shall I do ? D——n it. I shall kill my dogs if I shoot ; and if I don’t, she will.” Edgar answered not, but springing astride of the wolf he fastened a hand upon each ear and locked his legs around her body. The wolf feeling this additional weight forsook her hold of the dog, which she had already killed, and with the most violent doublings, leaps and plunges, made a desperate effort to change positions with her rider. They rolled several times over, and although there was no contortion or posture in which the infuriated and desperate animal did not writhe herself, yet he held his grasp with the certainty that its relinquishment would be instant death ; the hunter was petrified into a statue at the unexpected temerity of his companion, and confirmed in his former opinion, that he was deranged. As soon as he recovered his presence of mind, he threw down his rifle and taking his large knife, attempted to approach and cut her throat ; from this he was for some time prevented and several times knocked

over, by coming in contact with her, in her violent boundings: at last on her becoming more exhausted he succeeded, and Edgar released from her, fell by her side exhausted also with the exertion, and bruised in several parts of his body: the hunter raised him up enquiring if he were dead, and would not be satisfied until he stood up to convince him that he was not seriously injured.

The hunter desired Edgar to permit him to take him on his shoulders, and bear him the remainder of the distance to Pine Orchard, but he assigned that honor to the wolf. Beginning to feel some embarrassment at returning, after his taking a French leave the preceding evening, he conceived that returning with the wolf in triumph would effectually divert the company from being over curious about the cause of it. They accordingly proceeded with equal difficulty; the huntsman from the weight of his load, and Edgar from his fatigues, wounds and heaviness of heart. They arrived at the hotel, as the company were preparing to depart, but the movement was suspended to gratify their curiosity with the sight of a dead wolf, and listen to the hunter's account of the manner in which she had been taken; which they did with the utmost astonishment and admiration, and so much did it occupy the mind of the huntsman, that he forgot to say any thing of his finding Edgar, and no one thought but that they had gone in pursuit of her together. Two or three young physicians who were present, examined his

wounds, and more from febrile symptoms, than from the danger of them, they advised him to retire immediately to rest, and not leave the place, until his prospects of health were better than at present; but he, fearing that a confirmed sickness might ensue, and preferring in such a case any place to that devoted to pleasure and company, the same afternoon hired a conveyance to Kaatskill, where he lodged the night, during which he perceived that his imprudence and folly had reduced him to the verge of a settled fever, the event of which indeed, he felt no anxiety about, as all hopes of earthly happiness had fled from his perturbed bosom; yet he desired, at all events, to reach his relations, and, if fate so decided, die there. He passed, alone in his chamber, a restless night, attended with a partial and conscious delirium: he frequently discovered himself to be speaking aloud, his room appeared to be crowded with people, who got on his bed, pulled off his covering, making him start up to recover them: then he would recollect himself that the appearance was all ideal, and the effect of the state of his brain.

On the succeeding morning being something better, from a temporary intermission of fever, but in a feeble, languid state of body, and unhappy state of mind, he procured a coach, to convey him to his uncle's, in the town of Plain Ville, where he was determined to arrive, before assistance and nursing became absolutely indispensable. He arrived before evening, and the coachman

opening the door, with faltering steps, a burning fever, and partial delirium, he descended and reeled towards the house. He was unknown, personally, to his relatives who from the window observed his movements, so much at variance with his genteel appearance. His uncle and aunt, who had not the least suspicion who he was, met him at the door. "I believe I am in liquor," said he, "but cannot account for it. I think I shall die, and I want you to bury me, and inform my parents and Caroline; here is my pocket-book to defray the expense: you will find in it also some letters for you." His relatives not being forward to accept of it, it fell to the floor, and he would have followed but for their timely assistance. They asked him his name, but he replied incoherently. The coachman, hearing what he said, informed them, that he had drank nothing but water through the day. As soon as he was placed on bed in a state of insensibility, recourse was had to the letters, and the instant one was opened, they discovered who he was. His amiable character they were no strangers to, and nothing can describe the hurry and consternation of the family; two or three proceeded to take off his boots and clothes; whilst expresses were dispatched to every physician, within a reasonable distance, and orders being given to have a fowl killed, two or three boys and servant girls, with as many dogs, chased one several times around the house, and through the long piazza, seizing their prey directly under the window; the victim with long and loud

notes of lamentation bewailed its approaching fate. Mrs. S. went out and chid them for their inconsiderate rudeness, although they did it to manifest the readiness and alacrity with which they could perform their part of the service for the sick stranger.

CHAPTER V.

These were the charming agonies of love,
Whose misery delights.

THIS family had no children of their own, but had adopted one of whom they had become more fond and doating, than is common even for parents whose affections are concentrated upon one object. This was a girl who had early been taught to consider herself their child, although officious persons had sometimes pained her by hints to the contrary; yet as she considered she had been by them, at least, elevated to the rank of an only daughter to wealthy parents, her affection was augmented by gratitude. She called her foster parents father and mother, and all their relations, by relative appellations. This girl proved to be the Penelope to whom Caroline had become attached, and was now absent from home at the school; and so soon as the first consternation of the family had subsided, it was determined to send for her the same evening. Her parents, as we shall still call them, knew the pleasure it would afford her to assist in waiting on her cousin, as the love and affection to them extended to all their relations,

whose recognition of her as of the family, afforded her inexpressible delight, and stimulated her on all occasions to manifest her gratitude by the most affectionate and attentive demeanor. It was late before the carriage arrived at the school; Caroline and Penelope had retired to their lodging-room, but not to bed: by the light of a lamp which was by the yard gate Penelope knew the carriage, and laying her hand upon Caroline, said with an agitated manner, "Oh Caroline! something is the matter at home, there is our carriage after me at this hour." Caroline desired her to suspend her alarm until she went and ascertained whether that was the case: on her return she met Penelope on the stairs and putting the least alarming countenance upon it said, "thy cousin has arrived and is sick, but I expect not much, perhaps only fatigued by his journey." "Who is he, what, cousin?" said Penelope, pressing by her and hurrying down stairs, "how do you do John, who is it that is sick at our house?"

John. I do not know, I believe it is Mr. S.'s sister's son from the northward.

Penelope. It must be Edgar F——: we have expected him for two or three years. Is he very sick?

"I believe he is, ma'm," answered John.

"Edgar F——!" exclaimed Caroline: "Is it possible?" letting the lamp fall from her hand; and discovering her to be inclined to fainting they flew to her assistance, and by placing her in a chair, and the timely administration of water and hartshorn prevented it.

Penelope continually calling out, what is the matter with Caroline? what does this mean? and before Caroline was in any situation to answer, she asked her twenty times if she was acquainted with Edgar F. "Is he thy cousin?" at last she articulated, "is he at your house, and very sick? go then, do not delay on my account; thou canst not do too much for him. Let me go to bed," said she, resolutely raising up, "what an idiot I am." So saying, she took the light and made for her chamber. Penelope put on her cloak and bonnet; but not yet willing to leave Caroline, without knowing something more of the mystery. ran up stairs, and found her with her clothes on, upon the covering of the bed in a flood of tears, with a pillow over her head to smother her sobs. Penelope was astonished and cried from sympathy: Caroline after several vain attempts at last said, "sister, I thought you had gone, do not stay on my account." "How can I go," cried Penelope, "and leave thee in this situation," and it is impossible to tell how long she would have remained in this state of indecision, if their mistress had not come and decided the point in favour of her immediate departure, promising to remain and sleep with Caroline herself if necessary and agreeable.

After Penelope's departure, Caroline assumed a degree of composure, and lamented to her teacher her weakness, and the exposure which she had made of it: and perceiving that delicacy alone prevented her friendly caretaker, from making enquiries on the subject, and fearing she would form an opinion more unfavourable

vorable, or attach more importance to her conduct, than the real cause would warrant ; she attempted to give some account of it, but made a most confused story, by saying he was a neighbor of theirs, with whom she had no particular acquaintance ; he once risked his life to save me from danger of being drowned—no, I believe I did for him—we had both like to have drowned together : my surprise arose from hearing that he was here : and, she added, after some pause, that he was dangerously sick ; (here she was again on the point of bursting into tears,) and when she further attempted to justify herself by describing his character, and saying that any one of his acquaintance would have been equally affected at hearing of his being sick so far from home. The living fountains again overflowed their shaded margin, and moistened the sweet soil with streams of exquisite sensibility, and she again turned her face upon the bed to hide her emotions. Reflecting, however, on the silly appearance she was making, she summoned all her fortitude to her assistance, arose from the bed with firmness, and proceeded to adjust her hair for the night. On discovering the disordered state of her countenance from weeping, she felt a degree of contempt for her folly : and looking round to her mistress, smiled significantly, and with affected cheerfulness proceeded to undress for repose. This was the triumph of reason and resolution over sensibility, but it was not so complete but that an occasional sigh would escape from her struggling bosom. We will not, however,

attempt to watch with her through the night, but return to Edgar, who is in, by far, the most critical situation.

Penelope wept all the way home, so as to have none of it do after she had arrived there. She felt now doubly interested in the recovery of her cousin, as she perceived that Caroline must be deeply interested in his fate. By the time she revived, the first emotions having subsided, she was in a right state to enter immediately on all the duties that her affection and goodness would incline her to perform for her relation as she considered him.

The physician pronounced his disorder to be an inflammation on the brain, and expressed doubts as to the termination; but that a short time would decide the point. The patient appeared insensible of his situation, and had no recollection where he was, calling aunt, "Mother!" and talking indiscriminately and indistinctly of his business, the wolf and Caroline. Towards the close of the next day, the physician having expressed himself encouraged with the symptoms, Penelope wrote to Caroline the following note.

My Dear Caroline,

I was right in my conjecture; it is none other but E. F. I should have written in the morning, but appearances were then so discouraging, that I deferred in hopes of a favourable change, which I have now the satisfaction of informing you has taken place, (in

the Doctor's opinion ;) although not much alteration can in so short an interval be expected, be assured that nothing which can be done for him is omitted. I attend upon him constantly in administering the medicine precisely according to the directions of the physician. I do this with the greatest pleasure, as I know thou art deeply interested in his recovery. I have heard him call thy name : it was not from the resemblance that exists between us, for I have not discovered that he has noticed me ; I will inform thee every day how he is. In the mean time we will hope he will soon recover, when I will come with him to the school, and have the pleasure of seeing you meet.

P. S.

C. A.

Caroline received this billet, which in a degree, relieved her mind ; and farther to recover her spirits, or indulge herself in reflection without interruption, she put on her bonnet, and throwing a shawl over her shoulders, left the house without any one to accompany her. The sun appeared through the autumnal haze of a deep red, and about an hour's distance above the horizon. She took the path which led along the banks of the Wappinger's Creek, and designed to continue her walk as far as she thought would allow her to return before dark. She followed the windings of this stream, deliberately contemplating, at one time, the still and placid current silently and slowly moving towards the Hudson ; and at

other places rippling over loose stones, or foaming over ledges of rocks: some times she passed through long and spacious meadows, whose even surface still exhibited the wide and parallel swaths of the emulous swains. The tough green sward overhung the margin of the river partially undermined by the insidious current; here she beguiled her ennui by springing on the trembling and projecting turf, to catch a glimpse of the speckled trout, that like lightning would dart from under it; again her path stole through thickets of alders and willows, or lead at a distance to meet it again at another bend. In this way she continued insensible of the distance she had proceeded, or the lapse of time, until the soft approach of twilight attracted her notice, and excited her alarm; she precipitately changed her course and re-entered a thicket from which she had just emerged into a large meadow; in her hurry she inadvertently took a path which after insensibly winding round a swamp brought her out again in the same meadow, and on a course diametrically opposite to the right: without suspecting any such change, she was making all the haste she could, when she observed a young man who had just released a horse to graze, running towards her: when within a few rods he called to her, with a voice indicating a familiar acquaintance. Ashamed to have a race with him, she slackened her pace, and with an air of dignity and grace continued her course. When he came up, he very politely informed her that she was not the person he had taken her for; but,

says he, I am surprised at meeting with a girl here at this time of the evening, who is so much of a stranger to me. Where art thou going; or where dost thou belong? Her heart beat high, but his agreeable and good natured countenance forbade any apprehensions which she might otherwise have entertained, and she answered, with a smile on her trembling lips, that in taking an evening walk she had wandered further than she was aware of. "But where have you come from? I feel an interest in knowing: have you come down," said he, smiling, "from above?"—His gentlemanly, prepossessing appearance, although a farmer's son in his every day costume, had banished the trifling fright which she received at his first accosting her, and she rather admired than feared him. "I have come from the boarding school," said she, "and you will excuse me; I have not a moment to loose." So saying, she started on, but the contrary way from the one which would have brought her to the school. "Hold, hold!" he cried earnestly, at the same time springing after her and gently taking her by the arm. "Villain!" said she, looking at him wildly, "let me go. Your countenance wonderfully belies your heart."—"My dearest angel," said he, instantly letting her arm fall and stepping back a respectful distance; "excuse me—you are going from, instead of towards, the school; and you are already much further from home than is prudent for you."—"Please not to detain me," said she, and with hasty steps again left him, disregarding

what he said ; for having turned insensibly, she had no idea of its possibility. He stood for a moment, looking after her and hesitating what further to do for her, imagining she wandered in her mind as well as her walk. But it will not do, thought he, to suffer her to proceed ; she will soon be involved in darkness, and without a shelter. Again he started after her which she perceiving, and being now really apprehensive he wished to decoy her out of her way, at this inauspicious hour and place, and knowing no other, she was compelled to have recourse to the expedient which many a brave man has resorted to with success. She started off with the speed of a deer at the first alarm of the hounds ; but although her pursuer could at first but hold his own with her, yet he was not to be deterred from his kind purpose, and his perseverance soon overcame his deficiency in speed, and enabled him to place himself before her saying, “ You cannot escape me so : why do you wish to ? why do you fear me ? do you take me for a ruffian ? is there any thing in my looks that should so terrify you ? ” “ Not so much as in your actions, sir ! ” she retorted, panting for breath and with terror. “ I solemnly assure you,” said he, “ that you are going wrong. I know you are bewildered ; you are going a different point of compass from what you think. I would sooner die than insult you—than frighten you ; but if I suffer you to proceed, you will inevitably be out all night, which I cannot permit. If you have your senses, madam, you will certainly hear to me. If you unfor-

fortunately have not, I shall take you by force to my father's house, where my mother and sisters will take the best of care of you." "Is it possible," said she, "that I am lost, and that you intend nothing but kindness?" "Easily possible," said he, "if you knew my heart, you would suspect me of nothing else. I will convince you. Do you wish to go up or down the stream?" "Down, certainly," said she. "Step here then," said he "to the bank of the river. See you were going up the stream." "I see," she replied, wringing her hands, and looking around at the still but darkening horizon, "I have wronged you, insulted you, past all forgiveness. What have I called you! I have not even time to apologise. Will you now suffer me to proceed the right way?" "I will, if you say so, but not alone; it will soon be dark, and you are at least five miles from home. I invite and entreat you to go home with me."

Caroline. O, I cannot. What would be thought of me! and our people would alarm the country: they will as it is.

The young man replied, that if she was determined on going home, she must permit him to take her behind him on his horse; and, said he, taking out to the highway, I will have you home in a few minutes.

Caroline. I must go home; any thing else I leave to you. I distrust you no more.

Highly elated, he now ran for his horse; but with so much haste, that the high spirited animal frightened at his sudden approach, and his nerves being braced with the coolness of

an autumnal evening, started off, and elevating his head the length of his neck, and laying his long brush upon his back, coursed it two or three times across the meadow with such a formidable appearance, that Caroline climbed upon the fence for safety. Every moment spent in this way was adding to her embarrassment and distress, as a return through the fields was impossible ; and if she should be compelled to take the road on foot, it would be very late before she could get home ; and to go home with her new acquaintance appeared worse than any other expedient ; from this anxiety she was relieved by seeing the horse at length cautiously approach his master, and smell at the extended hand, whilst with the other he was seized by the mane and bridled. At one motion the young man was from the ground on his back : and when he rode along side of the fence to receive Caroline, although she was practised to that manner of riding ; yet his strong and fiery appearance, in any other circumstances, would have deterred her from risking himself on his back. He was in such good condition that the length of his spine was marked by an indented line, and so round and broad on the back as to form a safe and convenient seat, which without hesitation she occupied, and embracing her new friend firmly with her right arm ;

“ With head held high,

And braided mane, and comely brow ;”

the noble steed, as if proud of his ability to convey his precious burden, with restrained jumps, galloped across the intervale, and with the same speed and sure feet maintained his course over the rising ground, amidst numerous and large loose stones, rounded perhaps by rolling in the retiring waters of Noah's deluge.

At the entrance of every field, they passed through a large swing gate, balanced by the upper bar extending back four or five yards over the main part, with stones placed in a box on it. These were opened and pulled too after them by the young man's dexterity, without dismounting: at the same intrepid gait they passed on the margin of fresh ploughed lands, through Indian corn fields newly harvested, with the white husks left standing, and rattling in the breeze; through extensive orchards, down a way dug in the side of a hill into a wide and deep valley; ascending from which, on the opposite hill, at a distance, they discovered a line of lights extending for a mile in length, at irregular distances, and in a transverse direction to the course they were so rapidly pursuing. At that house where we see the first light, said he to Caroline, which we shall soon pass, I watched last night with a young gentleman, who came there sick from a great distance to the North. "What village is that?" said Caroline. "Plainville," was the answer. As she passed by the house, she observed a bed with the curtains drawn partially back, and two or three persons standing before it. She had

no doubt who it was, but her own situation occupied her attention too much to permit the circumstance to have that effect upon her nerves, which at another time might be expected from it; for as soon as the horse approached the high way, and turning, felt the hard road under him, he appeared more than ever inclined to exert his utmost speed; his gallant rider placing his hand on Caroline's arm, and pressing it more closely to him, said, "now my angel, hold to me and we will soon be at the end of our race;" then easing upon the bit, they went with such tremendous swiftness, that Caroline had to lay her head to his shoulders, to avoid the current of wind created by their velocity; and the sound of the horse's hoofs echoed through the stillness of night from the distant wood in one continued roll. After, at this rate, turning several sharp corners, descending hills, and rattling over bridges, they saw the length of a long, straight and level lane, at the end of which more brilliant lights arose in view, where they finally drew up, and the young gentleman informed Caroline she was at home. "Now," said he, "you are safe; give me your hand." "Yes, sir," said Caroline, extending it.

"I can never express my gratitude," she continued, "I shall never forget your goodness; I would offer you money, but I have already insulted you too far; you would greatly oblige me, and relieve me of a weight of obligation to accept of a reward." "I will, indeed," said he, "accept of ample reward,

and this is it, pressing her hand, which with the consideration of having served you and done my duty, overpays me. Perhaps I may see you again," said he, releasing her hand: 'Heaven bless him,' ejaculated Caroline, as she ran into the house, whilst the young man slipping his bridle rein, walked towards home with the horse smelling leisurely on the ground by his side, his coat laid close, and his flanks smoking with sweat.

Edgar remained until the third evening without a perfectly lucid interval, at which time his recollection returned, whilst his aunt and Penelope were sitting by the fire, with the room but partially lighted, in order to promote sleep in their patient: at the first return of his reason, he was sensible of having been deprived of it, but unconscious how long; the room he could recollect no acquaintance with, nor could he devise at all where he was. He remembered sitting out on his journey, and successively every event up to his encounter with the wolf, and leaving the mountain; the information that Emeline had there given him also was but too quick too assume its place in his memory: he was not certain whether he had arrived at his uncles or not. He perceived by the blisters and his weakness, as well as by a table and the mantletree shelves being covered with phials, teas and bowls of powders, that he had probably been some time sick; he reflected that his wantonly giving himself up a prey to despair at disappointment, was the sole cause. The extent of his disappointment he was still as sensible

of as ever; but as he considered it now unavoidable, he must either conclude to die under the weight of it, or become reconciled to it so far as to live with some degree of serenity and happiness. As he was not sure that even should he choose it, the first alternative would be in his power, he resolved to appeal to religion and philosophy to aid him in the latter; and deciding on this, he began immediately to feel the resolution of it to have a salutary effect. From the first moment of the return of his reason, he had kept his eyes fixed upon the persons in the room, to discover whether he could recognize them; but without success, as they were all strangers. When Penelope, observing him to lie so long quietly, approached softly to his bed-side; her strong resemblance of Caroline instantly struck him with the idea that it was really her, which he thought was not impossible, however unlikely, as he knew she was in that part of the country. This made him look so earnestly and wildly at her, that she did not discover the favorable alteration in his disordered mind as well as body; her looks said it was Caroline, but his reason and probability spake another language; he was almost ready to conclude he was dreaming, or that he had not yet his reason; she asked him to take some medicine, to which he assented, and thanked her in such a manner, that convinced her he had come, as she expressed it, to himself. After he had taken it, he extended his hand for hers, which she gave him: he then requested the candle to be

brought to the bed, which being complied with, he regarded her for a minute with the most fixed attention; he said it is not her; but no one could be more kind, not even —. He stopped short, without mentioning any name. But Penelope, from the circumstances that had occurred, knew who he meant and smiled; at which he again thought he was mistaken and that it was her, but with one more earnest look perceiving it was not he gave his hand to his aunt, saying,—this is my aunt: I have been insensible what a troublesome visitor I have been to you. They both denied that he had been any trouble to them, and assured him of the pleasure they felt at seeing him so much better. He then called for his uncle, and spake to him as for the first time that he had seen him. He wished to know whether the coachman, who brought him there, had been remunerated: he was answered, that he said nothing about pay, and they supposed that he had already had it. On a moment's reflection, he said he believed he had paid him when he engaged him. He then desired some person to go to Albany for his chaise.—This he was assured should be done, and after he had given directions for finding it, and respecting the payment of charges, &c. he was requested to trouble himself no more about any such concerns until he had recovered more strength. During the time since the recovery of recollection, his eyes would involuntarily rest upon Penelope, surprised at her strong resemblance of Caroline, until the circumstances became more familiar to him.

As he continued to grow better his mind was continually occupied upon the phrensy his passion for Caroline had reduced him to. He concluded from her not answering his letters, and from what he had heard from Emeline that Caroline had decided against him; or rather that she was determined to yield to the wishes of her parents in relation to the captain. This accounted to him for the extraordinary circumstance of Mr. Adson's placing his daughter so far from home, that it was not so much on the account of preventing his keeping Caroline's company (which might otherways have been prevented) as it was to place her where she would be in the way of having the captain's. He no longer permitted his imagination to dwell upon those charms and virtues which were once the theme of his wakeful dreams and hopes of happiness. He magnified the difficulties that might arise from their prejudices of education, which would be likely to lurk with them through life. And when he felt well enough, would spend much time in pleasant and facetious chat with Penelope, and so much did her kindness and open hearted disposition win upon him, that he would sometimes entertain a hope that in time his affections might witness a bona fida transfer; but the idea yet would scarcely yield him pleasure; and the image of Caroline, more perfect than Penelope could represent her, would frequently recur to his imagination. And Penelope not doubting but that Edgar and Caroline were irrevocably attached to each other,

would often introduce her to his remembrance, boasting of her acquaintance and intimacy with her, which contributed to demolish the fortifications which he erected in his mind as fast as he could build them. He said but little in reply, only to rally her for praising herself, as they were so much alike. Whenever Penelope called Caroline handsome, he would ask if she did not look much like herself? Thinking it a favourable time, however, to find out something more to confirm himself in the certainty of his fate being decided, at one time, when his cousin, as he called Penelope, again rallying him to raise his spirits, as she said, about Caroline, he replied; "you know a great deal about Caroline, dost thou know any thing about Captain W——y? hast thou never seen him at the school? At this Penelope blushed, and dropped her head, and without making any answer, cast a glance at her mother, to see if she noticed it; which she did, and without manifesting much pleasure on the subject. It is scarcely necessary to add, that he interpreted this in such a way as to leave himself in the belief that they were acquainted with the Captain and Caroline's intimacy; but wished to keep it from him. Penelope finally got rid of the question by saying, "the Doctor says I talk too much to thee." He said he was willing she should say no more to him on that subject; but on any other she could not say too much. In this he was very sincere, as he was now more than ever convinced that all his conclusions were well grounded; otherwise, why did she

answer him, without hesitation, in the negative.

Penelope knowing that it was the custom at the school occasionally to indulge the scholars from a distance, who had no relatives near, with a ride, had interceded with the mistress, and obtained her consent that a party of this kind should be formed, of whom Caroline should be one, to call upon her before her return, with the view of bringing Edgar and Caroline together, as soon as he had so far recovered as to render it prudent; having no doubt of a mutual attachment subsisting between them, although neither had given her direct information of it. Caroline heard every day of Edgar's gradual recovery, and having no doubt that he would call upon her the moment he was able, and seeing an interview could not be avoided, concluded it might take place at Plain Ville with as little embarrassment as at school; and accordingly, when the mistress proposed the ride to her, without designating where, although Caroline suspected from hints she had received from Penelope, yet she accepted the offer. Her late anxiety on Edgar's account, had half convinced her of the deep interest she felt in his existence, and although she was unwilling to confess to herself, that this interest extended beyond respect and friendship; and half persuaded herself, that it would give her real pleasure to hear of his being agreeably married to any person worthy of him; yet the interview she dreaded, and at the same moment desired; she felt anxious to profess to

him her happiness in his recovery, yet feared she should strengthen that dangerous plant in both their hearts, which might yet have to be eradicated by the roots. If she had not put on the most favorable constructions upon her own case, she would have foolishly yielded the point that she was in love, and then like a hypocondriacal patient, would have become subject to all the torments of its reality. Her spirits had been a perfect thermometer, which varied according to the prospects of the termination of his disorder : although she avoided too much reflection on a subject so dangerous to her peace, by occupying the hours not devoted to study, in some other innocent and diverting employment, particularly in attending to a numerous collection of flower-pots, and in selecting and gathering from the garden such seeds and roots, as she thought would be an addition or improvement to her own. In this employment she took great delight, and passed most of the time in tolerable serenity ; yet it was impossible for her at times to avoid a review of her acquaintance with Edgar, and the present state of it. Circumstances were not wanting to convince her of his attachment to her, and that he actually had, according to the promise he had made in his letter, come more than three hundred miles on her account. This preference from him she considered an honor, and on the score of gratitude, was not inclined to indifference, but felt as if she could not be happier herself than in promoting his happiness, and finally, that her heart was more his than she ever intended it should be any

man's, but that marriage, should he propose it, of which she could not doubt, was impossible; not only on the account of the repugnance of her father to it, but also because Edgar belonged to a society that she highly respected, whose rules forbid the proceeding on his part on pain of excommunication; which consequence she was unwilling to have such an important agency in; nor could her high sense of honor be brought to brook the idea of going into a family where her introduction would be considered a misfortune; such a humiliation she felt if she should submit to, she should be unworthy of Edgar, for whom she held the most exalted esteem as a man of both talent and sensibility, as well as possessing every manly grace and accomplishment. These reflections almost shook the fabric of admiration, which had lately been raised in her mind in favor of the society, and but for this she could not have been persuaded that any regulation of their police could have interfered with the rational happiness of any of its members, in any possible case; but now, if Edgar's happiness, as he had assured her, depended on an union with her, every door to it was barred by honor or principle. If even, said she mentally, I am as firm in the belief of their principles as is Edgar, still no allowance can be made; he must be stigmatised by excommunication, or what is worse, by sending a hollow hearted acknowledgment of what he had deliberately performed, which if hypocritical is wicked and disgraceful; if sincere is a thousand times worse: she who would consent to be a party in such a

proceeding must be lost to every fear but that of celibacy; and if to obviate the difficulty, as I am informed is sometimes the case, I should request to be received a member, such indelicacy and double dealing would meet its merited reward, contempt from every member, whose good opinion was worth preserving.

Thus Caroline reasoned, and whether right or wrong, it had the effect to destroy in her mind all probability of a matrimonial connexion with him; and like Edgar she was compelled to fortify her mind for what would, in defiance of her fancied disinterestedness, appear a rugged path; she thought if she could now see him married to his satisfaction, where none of these impediments were in the way, it would yield her the highest satisfaction; and the recollection that she had ever inspired him with a partiality, would compensate to her for the loss of its legitimate advantages.

The time fixed upon for the proposed ride had not been disclosed to Caroline; but on the last day of the week, as she had closed her book, and was observing the animation with which many of the scholars were preparing to go home, and return on the commencement of the succeeding week, her kind mistress repeated the proposal she had spoken of, "to ride to a friends' house for the afternoon;" Caroline asked where? to which the mistress replied, with a smile, that they could make no long stay at any place. Caroline replied firmly, "I will go, if you please." The scholars, who accompanied Caroline, could not account for the thoughtfulness, and the inat-

tention to passing objects which she manifested on the way: her mistress was better able to assign a reason for it, and judged that Caroline understood where they were going, and that the visit was of more importance than she would be willing to acknowledge.

Penelope was prepared for their reception. She had waited upon Edgar so long, and with so much affection, and he had, for reasons already given, chatted with her with such freedom, that she regarded him on his recovery with as much pride and pleasure, as she had but a few years before her doll, and talked to him with as little ceremony. She had on this occasion insisted on having him dressed in his best clothes, with his cravat and every thing in style, in order, as she said, to shew her cousin to the best advantage to her schoolmates. He walked several times across the room, with her assistance, which was rendered with so much innocent freedom and cheerfulness, that it greatly endeared her to him, and raised his spirits under the weight of the idea of losing Caroline.

She had given him to understand that her mistress, with some of the scholars, were coming to see him, and he calmly waited the event, doubting whether Caroline would be induced, if permitted, to accompany them; but when they arrived, Penelope informed him she had come, and that she would introduce her alone after the others had been in. She then entered with half a dozen young ladies, holding each other by the hands, and accompanied by their mistress, who successively

congratulated him on his recovery. He was pleased with their enlivening appearance, and smilingly thanked them for their goodness. They then took their leave, and strung out of the room, and from thence to the orchard, which gave Penelope an opportunity to lead in Caroline. She entered without her bonnet, and dressed with more than ordinary care. Edgar was lying on the outside of the bed, with his head raised : as their eyes met, he smiled and called her name, and she, in return, faintly articulated his. Penelope pointed her to a chair at the head of his bed, and retired. " I am pleased," said Edgar, at seeing thee look so well, thy mind must be at ease, thou must be very contented at the school." She commenced to speak her regret at his sickness, and her pleasure at the prospect of his recovery ; but her voice failed before she had finished the sentence. Edgar raised to discover what affected her. " Dear Caroline," said he. " I had like to have said my dear Caroline ; whence that agitation, for whom those tears ? Certainly not for me. Be composed I entreat thee : we have no time to spare. Such an opportunity has not lately occurred to us, nor is it likely again to recur ; and although it is probably to seal my misery, any thing is preferable to suspense. Most precious girl, thou canst not be indifferent to my sufferings ; and although thou probably cannot, consistent with thy own happiness, relieve them, yet it is certainly in thy power to grant some relief. I need not inform thee that thou wert the sole cause of my

journey, and of the present state of my health. No, the last is the effect of my own imprudence and folly. You know my sentiments, perhaps they merit no answer: I can excuse thee, if thou thinkest they do not. Any thing in thee, will appear right to me. I expect I have accidentally become acquainted with thy sentiments in regard to this subject, so important to me; but I wish to have it sealed by thy own lips. Speak, my Caroline, we have but a moment.”—She would have spoken, notwithstanding her agitation, if she had known what to say; if she could have informed him of her respect, her gratitude, her good wishes: to this task she knew she was incompetent, if she attempted it. She, therefore, said with a faint voice; “think no more of me, I am unworthy”—he waited for her to proceed, but perceiving she did not, “speak, Caroline,” said he, “but do not say any thing about being unworthy: I cannot endure that. I have every reason to believe thou hast already decided against me; if so, or if not, why not inform me? If thou art determined to yield to circumstances, or the wishes of others; to the wishes of others, did I say! perhaps to thy own: I have no reason to think but they are. What effort or opportunity have I omitted to obtain thy answer? Think of thee I shall, so long as recollection lives within me: but I never will censure thy motives, thy conduct. Imperious circumstances, such as the best of mortals, and the best only are subject to, may tie thy hands or seal thy lips: my only wish is for thee to be happy, and for me to know

it. If you prefer another to me, only say it." To this she was determined to answer distinctly; but the last words were uttered with so much difficulty, that she took the handkerchief from her face to discover if his exertion and agitation had not overcome him; she perceived him with his eyes closing, and his head falling helplessly on its side. Her alarm restored her to the exertion, which in some cases it would have deprived her of; she instantly attempted to loosen his cravat, crying, "O, my dear Edgar, you are dying!" she meant to have said fainting. He opened his eyes, and seeing her bent over him in the attitude of affection, attempted to smile, but it was too late to arrest his fainting: with tremulous haste she loosened his cravat, and tore open his vest, then seized a tumbler of water, but turning to apply it to his face, and seeing him lay to all appearance dead, she had not courage to dash it in his face, but dismissed it, without actually letting it fall, and flew to call for assistance; but in her trepidation, unhappily took the wrong door, and finding she was lost, sunk down herself into a swoon. In the mean time, Penelope, thinking the audience had been protracted as long as would be for the health of her patient, entered the room, and at the first glance discovered that Caroline was gone, and then that Edgar appeared waking from sleep, with his cravat loose about his neck, and his vest unbuttoned, she asked him where Caroline was; but he knew nothing of the subject, nor hardly noticed the question. Penelope had been out with

her schoolmates, and did not know but that Caroline had gone out into the room where the family were, and from thence out of doors; she, therefore, flew in, and asked the mistress if Caroline had come out, and being answered in the negative; she cried with astonishment, "where then is she?" and ran back. This brought her mother and the mistress after her, all of whom, with consternation in their countenances, asked each other where she could be. Edgar had now so far recovered, as to discover their confusion, and that Caroline was missing, or that something had befallen her, he enquired where she was; but not receiving any answer, he pitched off the bed and made for the door: whilst to prevent it, they all surrounded him. Caroline, who had inadvertently shut the door after her, having recovered, and hearing them entreating Edgar to be pacified, now entered, and coming up behind him, took hold of his arm. "Here," said Penelope, "here, cousin Edgar, is Caroline." He turned, and falling towards her, clasped her in his arms, whilst she, from her recent misfortune, scarcely able to sustain her own weight, sunk under the addition of his, and the carpet, by receiving them both, fortunately kept them from coming to the floor.

After it was discovered that no serious accident had attended their mutual descent, it had the agreeable effect of banishing from Caroline, at the same time that it restored the colour to her cheeks, that distressing and indescribable sensation which deprives the tongue of utterance; and although she had no opportunity

of speaking to him alone, yet she endeavored to convince him of her tender feelings towards him by attention, and pleasure in her countenance, which, but for this purpose, she would, before company, chose to have avoided. Penelope said she had calculated on some theatrical scene between them when they met, and she was now fully satisfied ; indeed, such was the effect upon the whole company, that until their departure, no two who were in the room could look each other in the face and maintain their gravity.

When Caroline took her leave, she said in a low voice, that her happiness depended on nothing so much as his perfect recovery.—“What does the sweet tormentor mean by that?” said he, as he was left alone, whilst the visitors were attended to the carriage. “When I supplicated an answer to my suit, in the most humble terms, not a word could I get ; but now she has volunteered something, which must be, from the manner in which it was given, more than a compliment, that will be sufficient to keep me on the rack a month longer.” But the most rational construction he could affix to it, was that although she could not give him her heart, yet she wanted to do every thing else which would compensate for it, or answer as a substitute.

Edgar’s health improved so fast that he was soon able to walk out, and make observations on the place of his nativity, and where he had spent the days of his early childhood. Some of the most remarkable features of it were faintly impressed on his memory, but the most part

was entirely new. The village was almost secluded, both from the view and corruption of the rest of the world; the prospect not extending over two miles in any direction before it rested on the surrounding hills, or became elevated to the blue horizon or fleecy clouds: the white fronts of dwellings, in retired situations, smiled through close rows of poplars and locusts, whose tall branches whispered peace in every breeze, and now began to enamel the yards with their autumnal tribute of yellow foliage. The easy countenances and cheerful demeanor of all he met, convinced him that some more than ordinary cause contributed to the happiness of this favored spot. The inhabitants were generally connected either by blood or marriage, and being mostly *Friends*, lawsuits have never been suffered to sow the seeds of lasting enmity; nor taverns and alehouses to corrupt the youth, nor tempt the weakness of age to rob the afflicted wife of the company and affection of her husband; or the hungry and naked child of the labor and support of its father. A drunken man in the streets would cause as much alarm, as the escape of a desperate maniac, or a wild beast of the forest. No midnight revelries disturb the rest of the spheres: no delicate young lady is heard, at the break of day, coughing and knocking at the servant's door, to be admitted from the ball. Yet at the close of day might often be seen platoons of young parties sitting in the piazzas, walking down some shaded avenue, or standing on some retired eminence, which overlooked a dell be-

low, perhaps to admire the artificial elevation and windings of a rivulet along the grassy banks, from whence to dispense its variegating streams over the sloping meadows, or to carve their names, or that of an absent friend, on the bark of a wild poplar, to spread with the growth of every successive year, and sometimes, alas, to remain as mementos of those who were absent, never more to return; or, perhaps, they contemplate from this distance the peaceful appearance of their respective homes, or the luxuriant fields of grain, or distant pastures, where the scattered flocks of sheep resemble white specks on the sides of the hills, or to watch the descending curtain of falling eve. Yet these are not their most social parties; successively they invite each other to assemble for the purpose of preparing apples and peaches for preserves, by paring and dissecting them into quarters and removing the seeds. On these occasions may be seen a room filled with baskets of fruit, each surrounded by a circle of youth and beauty, where jokes, songs, stories, hints and charges of attachment succeed each other, sometimes producing blushes that vie with the red streak in deepness. After the task is performed, and the baskets removed, plays of forfeit are introduced, where the swain, condemned to kiss all the girls present, submits to the penalty with pleasure, in order to come at the one he loves.

Huskings are a very common entertainment in autumn in the vicinity of this place, but the good people of Plainville do not patronize

them, considering them as endangering the health, by exposure to night air ; and their morals, from the practice of taking spirituous liquors, and opening a door to the attendance of other night and popular diversions, from the love of company first contracted at these places. To those who are unacquainted with the term husking, the following description may give some faint idea : which is, to separate the ears of Indian corn from their envelope of husks. The corn being severed from the ground, is drawn into a yard near the barn or crib, and laid in a large winrow, several rods long, and in a semicircle, so that the huskers are placed on the outer side, where they sit and throw their husks over their heads, and their ears forward over the heap. From sun-down until after twilight, the company are successively assembling ; and is composed of men and boys, of all ages : the young bucks do not now appear in their Sunday bests, but on the contrary, take a pride in wearing an old great coat, with perhaps their father's cast-off broad brimmed slouched hat ; and thus arrayed, they advance sedately, and take their stand or seat, as they choose, and maintain a pertinacious silence, whilst those who are there before them, at every new comer, expecting their particular comrades, lean forwards and backwards, out of the line, and peak and squint to discover who he is, and thus continue until they are successful, when he throws off further reserve, and enters into the general conviviality, if it may be called general, where the long line is formed into sociable sec-

tions, each consisting of as many as can hear, and take a part in the discourse, which, in its subject, varies according to the taste of the one who gives the lead. At one end four or five men, who are past the age of frolic and fun, having the circulating medium of life a little accelerated in its motion by passing black Betty in her occasional round, derive the highest satisfaction by a retrospective enjoyment, in recounting what scrapes they had been in together in time past; whilst the next club are gravely descanting the merits of their schoolmaster, and censuring his novel method of punishment, as not so rational as the simple birch; or commending him and telling of the improvement of their children, or how many times they read around in the forenoon, and how many times in the afternoon, besides spelling. If theology should chance to be chopt by them, it is always some hacknied subject, and seldom varies from the momentous question of fore-ordination, or fore-knowledge; the former of which they would find little difficulty with, but for the interference of the latter. Further on, four or five youngsters have their heads as near together as circumstances will permit, and speak so low that nothing can be discovered of their discourse, further than that the girls are the subject of it. In the next group, half a dozen are urging the seventh to sing, "The girl I left behind me," and just as he has coughed and expectorated, with the intention of complying with their request, a loud voice at the further extremity strikes up with, "There came to the

beach," &c. At this, every individual in the whole line stops the rustling of the husks, or hunches his neighbor, who is speaking, to listen until they catch what tune is out, and then proceeding in their business, as many as can lay the most distant pretensions to being singers, join with it; and although some are lamentably out of tune, by being too far in the rear, yet others are a whole stave ahead; whilst the rest, still more unlucky in having got a different tune, compensate for the mistake, by the loudness of their voices, which makes such a crossing of flats and sharps, rising and falling, that with the influence of the whiskey, with which they wet their whistles, the very stars appear to dance and keep tune in the blue expanse over their heads.

After the husking is performed, two or three more, according to the number of stacks, of the most active required, take each a position, whilst the others seize upon the stalks, and by armfulls hurl them upon the stackers, who struggle to keep above them, until they suddenly find themselves elevated to the top of a stack, and out of the reach of any further addition; and the whole labor being now completed, wrestling, running, and other diversions ensue, until they repair to the house, where, on a long table, at convenient distances, huge platters of hot pot-pye send their curling exhalations in smoky columns to the ceiling; as these disappear, they are replenished by two or three hale looking damsels, who with smiling countenances, and newly starched bibs and tuckers, sail around the room

with all the celerity and velocity that the presence of so many beaux, never fail to inspire girls conscious of their charms, and the excellence of their cookery. As this kind of food is dry, and calculated to excite thirst, numerous white bowls are kept brimmed with well wrought, and sparkling cider, which are lifted to the lips as often as they apprehend the quantity of pot-pye introduced, may require moistening. After this course, the scattered bones of the legs, wings and breasts of turkeys, geese, and other fowls, are collected from the sides of the plates, and the emptied platters removed, and in their places, others are brought containing huge quantities of pumpkin pie, cut in triangular pieces, and piled pyramidically with their points inward, and graduated off at the top in the shape of a hay-stack, or chinese bonnet. These are also demolished in their turn, after which the ceremony ends with hunting around the room after their respective hats, and the company separate, not, however, until after proclamation is made where the next meeting of the kind is to be held.

With the older part of society, a rational and moderate intercourse is kept up by giving and receiving visiting parties, without endeavoring to extort homage from each other, by outshewing in furniture or luxuries, or insulting them with sluttishness or indifference, which proceeds from the same corrupt source of pride; but neatness, comfort, cheerfulness and rational converse, unmixed with backbitings, and unsoured by political feuds or reli-

gious bigotry, crown all their entertainments. The most conspicuous of this society was the family of him who officiated in the House of Prayer. They were the standard in relation to gaiety of dress and furniture; to advance beyond them would be considered an unpardonable deviation from plainness; their house was always open for the entertainment of all respectable strangers, who should incline to make a stop in the village; or for the traveler who desired to sojourn but for the night. From them emanated the refinement and information conspicuous in their neighbors; their library was kept well stored with books, calculated to inculcate the principles of their society, and general morality, to the exclusion of works of imagination; unless, indeed, that busy faculty, instead of being confined exclusively to novels and romances, should find its way into books written under a more imposing and sanctified character. These books were always ready to be either loaned, bestowed, or sold, according to the condition or wish of the applicant.

In the rear of the house of Edgar's relations, was an extensive apple orchard; and this was the season when

“ ————— every breeze,

“ Shook from the pendant boughs a mellow shower.”

The long and regular rows of trees, and profusion of rich fruit of various hues that covered the ground beneath them, with the pyramidal piles of red and yellow apples around the creaking cider-mill, filled the mind of Ed-

gar, as he wandered around with sensations partaking of novelty and pleasure, and operated to counteract the effect of the recollection of his absent friends ; and the fading appearance of the variegated foliage of the forest, which filled his mind with melancholy. The atmosphere was in that state so delightful to a reflecting mind, called Indian summer, or smoky days, when the dazzling lustre of a clear sun is shielded and rendered mild and crimson colored by a pellucid haze, which occurs regularly in autumn after two or three severe frosts have set at liberty the humidity of such leaves and plants as are fatally affected by their influence. The orchard on the back side terminated at the commencement of an extensive intervale, through which the Wappinger's creek passed, before he leads his course along the banks on which Caroline pursued her studies. Here, on either side, were to be seen some straggling and excessively tall hickory trees, which bore their only fruit far out of reach, excepting when agitated by the strong hand of Boreas, it fell white from the shell and covered the ground, like hail from the clouds of heaven. Here each fine morning with the rising sun he would inhale health and spirits, as he claimed the privilege of accompanying Penelope, or relieving her from the task of collecting such nuts as had fallen the preceding night, and here he often shook the dew drops from the thick hedge row, in climbing after festoons of wild grapes that hung in clusters from the promiscuous windings of the extended vine.

CHAPTER VI.

“ So from the wide, extended round
Of all religions, will be found
One only Lord of light.”

ON his return from one of these walks he heard it announced that a preacher of the society, and a stranger, had made an appointment at the meeting-house for the afternoon; the news is speedily communicated through the village; and although the messenger carries no lighted torch; yet it is much like the manner that Scott describes the Highlander's summons to war, and is attended too with equal punctuality; no secular concern being considered a sufficient excuse for absence. At the time appointed he walked towards the place of worship; its very situation was calculated to inspire that kind of silent adoration, so much the practice of the congregation who assembled in it. It was on a retired eminence, surrounded and secluded by trees and shrubbery of natural growth, which whispered in the breeze over the graves of the silent predecessors of the village, and hushed every unruly and sordid passion, before the devotee reached

the sacred threshold. Here no knotty points of theology are rendered more puzzling, by ineffectual attempts at disentanglement: no theatrical displays of eloquence, or concerts of instrumental or vocal music, to entertain the head or gratify the senses; but the object is, by retiring from the world and its cares, and in a manner from themselves, to give time for such reflection as shall mend the heart:—nothing is insisted upon from the pulpit, but to give place and attention to that light which, as Hudibrass says, “like a lanthorn they are within us;” and to inculcate the necessity of preserving those testimonies inviolate, which have been handed down from their predecessors, and inculcating the doctrine of sobriety, peace, and brotherly kindness.

As the assembling worshippers gathered around the entrance, a carriage drove up, which, from a whisper amongst some young men near him, Edgar understood had come from the school. Four or five young ladies issued out, and darted directly into the house; but not without his perceiving who *one* of them was. This was not their ordinary place of worship; but they had come on account of the appointment having been made by a stranger of eminence, and Caroline, whose curiosity had become greatly excited to become acquainted with the society, attended with them at her request.

During the silence which always precedes the service in those meetings, Edgar appeared thoughtful as if in silent prayer; nor did he appear much interested in the commencement of

the discourse, wherein the preacher attempted to point out the mistakes which people made in regard to religion, from whence arose all the evils which are, by scepticism, charged to the account of religion. "Religion," says he, "is something which reduces all mankind to one level; in this all are equally concerned. The king on his throne has but one immortal soul, and the beggar on the dung-hill has one equally dear, equally valuable in the Divine sight, and equally an object of his paternal regard, and hence his mercy and the offers of his salvation are universal; he has constituted man with a will and understanding of his own; a free agent, with the privilege and power of choosing for himself; therefore he cannot, consistently with man's constitution, force salvation upon him: universal mercy does not require it: but universal justice does require that the means of salvation be extended to all. If salvation depend upon the choice of the subject, it must in some shape or other be presented to him before he can exercise that choice: and this is that light, which St. John says, lighteth every man that cometh into the word, and no man ever stands condemned but for the rejection of this light; they may reject every thing else, but the rejection of this light alone is what brings condemnation; for this is the condemnation of the world, that light has come into the world, but men choose darkness rather than light, &c. This light is that which preaches the gospel to every creature under heaven. In what other possible sense can the gospel be said to be preach-

ed to every (rational) creature under heaven, but by a universal principle of light, which as John says, lighteth every man that cometh into the world. This light is the new covenant that was promised in the latter days, that should be written on the heart, and printed in the inward part : and every man can bear witness to the fulfilment of the promise; for there is not a man under heaven, but feels and knows the operation of this principle. It speaks one language, it is the same in China as in America. It condemns a man for doing *what he thinks is wrong*. It is strictly consistent in condemning a Jew or Mahometan for eating pork, whilst it will exonerate a Christian for the same; because the first do that which they think is wrong, which always proceeds from a corrupt principle : the man who does a thing he thinks is wrong, acts from a corrupt principle, although the thing is in itself innocent; and so vice versa, any man doing a thing which he believes is right, does certainly as regards him right. Angels could do no more, and this principle, true to its office, justifies him for it. Thus is the mercy, goodness, and justice of Providence manifest, in that he judges man *by his spirit*, according to that measure of light which they have, and not that which they have not. This is the religion I call you to embrace, a religion which needs not the aid of laborious study to understand, nor sophistry to prove, there is in every man a witness for it; this is a religion which none denies; they may dispute what it is, may call it education, conscience

or whatever ; but they will acknowledge that all are condemned for doing that which they believe wrong, and justified for doing that they believe right ; this very circumstance proves that it is of perfect origin, for the most perfect justice will take the same ground. This makes the christians in our land doubly accountable for the blessings which they enjoy of christian instruction, and the light of the scriptures ; and it places the distant realms, where it has not pleased Providence yet to introduce them, on a scale of accountability, consistent with the light received ; and this is strictly and rationally consistent with the nature of heaven, which consists in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Heaven is a state, as much as a place ; it is that happy feeling, which always clothes the mind, after having done that which we believe is right—and hell also is as much a state, as place ; it is a horrible consciousness of having done that which we know is wrong ; and a wounded spirit, who can bear ? We must expect to enter here into a commencement of that state which is to be eternal—we must not limit, nor locate our ideas, in regard to spirit, nor remain in the childish idea that heaven is a place, located far above the clouds ; and hell below the earth : this idea has arisen from the fact, that virtue and goodness exalts or raises its votary, whilst vice and wickedness sinks and lowers it. And here we see how this will effectually remove all persecution, and all sectarianism ; for we have only to recommend men to do that which appears to

them to be right. We have no right to judge of what is right for them : all men are born equal in a religious as well as a political sense, and no man nor church has a right to judge an individual in regard to his faith towards his Maker, to whom every one of us are individually accountable, and to whom none of us can answer for others. The soul the Creator has reserved to himself ; it cannot be governed nor compelled by all the powers of man ; fire and sword have been used in vain ; the body may be destroyed, but the mind cannot be forced, where it is disposed to remain faithful. The body or the moral conduct alone becomes cognizable to man when it interferes with the rights and privileges of others. I may be a Quaker, another may be a Presbyterian, and another a Baptist, or Universalist ; yet if all act in strict obedience to what they believe right, they feel justified and not condemned : and if our hearts condemn us, God who is greater will condemn us also ; and so also we have good reason to conclude that if our hearts or consciences condemn us not, neither will he. This is our doctrine of believing in the teaching of the Spirit or revelation : we place religion in obedience to known duty ; it cannot consist in duties unknown, it cannot consist in mere dogmas of faith or belief. It is a mistaken idea, that we place religion in such trifles as a peculiar phraseology, or cut or colour of our garments ; there is no more religion in a straight coat than in one ever so crooked, but we believe that neither religion, reason, nor philosophy, all which must harmo-

nize, will condemn the idea of not being conformed to all the changeable fashions of the world, in which the lightest and most frivolous minds always excel and lead. In the formation of our discipline, it never was imagined that it would be a subject that would affect the men, but the female part of the family, the weaker vessels, who are naturally fond of feathers and trifles.

Caroline had been all attention, but on hearing this she turned her expressive eyes around on the female part of the audience, but not discovering any marks of surprise or indignation in the sober countenances of the sisters, she concluded that the fault must be in herself: but when he proceeded to enquire of the men, if one cape was not as good as four or five, and if all over one were not added on account of pride, she again listened with more respect. He said that because plain clothes were put on by dishonest men to deceive, it did not militate at all against the propriety of plainness; for that sheep's clothing was, in itself, good, even though on a wolf's back. In addressing the members of the society specially, he stated that a departure from plainness lead to a more important evil, *that of going out in marriage*. He depicted the inconveniences likely to accrue from what he called mixed marriages.

"Marriage," said he, "implies union not only of hands, but hearts, in the pursuit of the same object. With mutual happiness in view, they must become emphatically one flesh, deriving satisfaction and happiness from

the same objects, and participating in, and thus lightening, such afflictions as shall fall to their lot. Where there is not this unity of heart, they cannot be said to be married, but chained to each other, like Prometheus to the rock, with a vulture feeding upon his vitals. Instead of harmoniously drawing together in the yoke, one pulls one way and one the contrary; how much better would it be for both, at least in this world, if neither of them had any religion at all; and how is the evil aggravated when they come to be blessed with children: if a blessing that is under such circumstances, attached by nature to both parents, but compelled by their disagreement to decide between them, and condemn the counsel of either the one or the other.

Caroline's eyes were fixed upon the preacher, with reference to herself and Edgar: but as this was going farther into consequences than she expected, she turned her eyes hastily around, to see if any one noticed her attention; they met Edgar's with a smile on his countenance, which indicated that whilst she had attended to the preacher, he had been equally concerned to mark the effect his discourse had upon one of his hearers; she instantly held down her head, and remained in that position during the sermon, excepting when in the application the preacher earnestly pressed it upon his young friends, to guard their imagination, and every avenue of the heart, to prevent their affections from being ensnared where such consequences would be likely to ensue. She in her turn had the curi-

osity to observe (perhaps from interested motives) what impression it made upon him, but she observed him regarding the Friend with a composed look, that plainly manifested that he was neither afraid to look at the subject, nor yet to be moved by it without sufficient reasons. He had, in fact, the most perfect unity with it, as far as it turned upon a difference in religious sentiments, which are not always defined by the boundaries of societies. After this speaker had ended his discourse, another rose, and treated this subject with more plainness, but less delicacy, referring to the idolatrous consequences which accrued to the Israelites from their taking wives of the inhabitants of the land, applying those scriptures; "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers—what fellowship hath Christ with Belial, light with darkness?" &c. Happily his discourse was too broad to be long, and immediately on his setting down the meeting concluded.

Edgar met Caroline at the door, and took her hand and held it until he had assisted her into the carriage. She expressed the pleasure it gave her to see him so well as to be out, and entreated him to avoid every thing likely to produce a relapse. He said, if he could believe she was really interested in his recovery, it would be to him an object worth attending to. He, smilingly, asked her how she liked the discourse, and she answered emphatically, "Well! and wo will betide you if you forget it." The coachman was on the box, and the other passengers seated and

waiting with polite impatience, for Edgar to release his fair captive, that they might proceed, which he discovering, handed her in, and fastening the door, away went once more all (his earthly treasure, like a bird that had slipped from his hand into the wide world.)

The young men of the village, with whom he had become acquainted, pressed around him to know something of the beautiful scholar, with whom he appeared to be on such agreeable terms.

Notwithstanding Edgar improved every opportunity of speaking with Caroline, and still indulged a secret hope that his fortitude had not in this case altogether deserted him, and that the tables might yet turn more favorable to his wishes; yet since, and during his recovery, he exerted all his fortitude and philosophy to conquer or tame the wildness of his passion; to resolve never to see her again, was a step which if he found absolutely necessary, he was resolved should be the last resorted to. All he was by this discipline able to attain to, was to contemplate losing the object of his affection, without absolute resignation to despair. He could not bear the thought, much less derive satisfaction from it, that time would efface her beloved image from his memory, or another supplant her in his affections: separated from his home and business, as he was now, he found his imagination was too much at leisure to renounce the object which afforded so much scope for the exercise of its activity.

On his way from the meeting he determined to procure on the next day a final and decisive interview with Caroline, and in the event of its sealing with black his prospects in regard to her, to proceed hastily home and annihilate himself and her image, in application to business and the company of bachelors.

He had been invited to dine and spend the afternoon at the minister's, where the stranger was also to be, but from his musing humor, he did not arrive until all the other company invited had entered. After his over-coat was disposed of on the bannisters in the hall, he was introduced into the common parlour; this introduction did not much disturb the company, which consisted of the stranger and his companion, and several of the most elderly and zealous of the professors belonging to that meeting: they were engaged in conversation on, and condemning the practice of reading newspapers; whilst the reverend host, having just received one wet from the press, sat with one foot on the screen, composedly opening, turning, and extracting all the contents of it, with a slight smile on his countenance, at the superstitious prejudice of his friends, which, as he did not like openly to combat, he partly affected not to attend to. When they were invited to walk in to dinner, Edgar was surprised to find that he had yet seen but half of the company, and in the hall through which they passed, stood, turned to one side, a company of young people, who were changing rooms with the older, in order to dine at

the second table ; and among these he discovered the company from the school : he would have preferred and insisted on returning to the room with them, but this was not permitted to either him or Caroline. He must dine at the first on account of his being a convalescent, and she, because all felt interested in her having the company of the public Friends, as they properly enough considered her, a young person of distinguished accomplishments, who had her eye towards the Society. She was waited upon with the most distinguished attention by the elegant mistress of the house, whose urbanity and indefatigable politeness, appeared to impose it upon her as an indispensable duty to smile upon every individual in the company, and speak to them in the most obliging accents, thus to spread, like a fairy mantle over the whole company, that cheerfulness and bland humour, which is not so much from natural disposition, as from mental discipline, and the rigid and constant practice of the rules of politeness ; Caroline was astonished at the profusion and luxury exhibited before her by a people whom she had hitherto supposed adhered in all cases to the strictest rules of temperance and plainness.

The floor was covered with a variegated, although home manufactured carpet, with a fine figured rug before the hearth : splendid maps were suspended on the walls, and the company were seated in fancy chairs, ornamented with landscape paintings.

One of the Friends, seated by Caroline, in an agreeable way, suggested to her that the manners and conversation of the company she now associated with, must appear singular to her, as she had been educated in a different manner, and unacquainted with Friends.— Caroline felt embarrassed at being left under the necessity of replying, and thereby putting herself in the way of taking a part in the conversation, as she wished to remain a silent but watchful listener to the others, who had formed in the spacious room several little insulated circles, engaged on such topics as had respectively occurred to their attention. At hearing a conversation opened with the one, *not a Friend*, they generally separated their heads, which, to prevent disturbing their neighbours, had been neared together in their social chit chat, straightened themselves up, and appeared to listen respectfully, without wishing to put to too great a trial her confidence.

Caroline replied to the Friend, that the novelty of her present society was nothing to what she should have expected from her former slight acquaintance with Friends. I am every day finding out something new of your practices and principles, and the more I find out of them, the better I like them; but there are, I confess, some things which I cannot discover the consistency of, although the fault may probably be in myself. “And what are they?” replied the sister; at the same time rising up, and urging the stranger or travelling Friend to take her place; which after

some smiling hints and whispers was complied with.

“What are those inconsistencies, child?” said the Friend, with a benignant and humble manner: “we know that we are far from perfection, although we hold the possibility of attaining to it, to stimulate us to press after it”

Caroline. Pardon me, sir, I did not say they were inconsistencies; I only said they looked so to me. I had reference to what you call plainness, which appears to me to be but sectional prejudice, as what is allowed of here by the Society, I am sure would not be suffered at the Northward; and since I have been at the school, I have understood that there is a meeting of Quakers in France, who are purely such in principle, but whose dress is not marked by any peculiarity from that of their neighbors.

Friend. Thou heardst the observations I was lead to make to day in my communication. The peculiar cut of the coat which we wear, was not invented by us as a badge of our own; it was the common mode in vogue, when we became distinct as a Society, and not thinking it proper to change with every fashion of the world we retain it still.

Caroline. I have no doubt that is the way your fashion originated. I have observed even so late as General Hamilton, that he is painted with such a vest as you have on, with skirts to it, and lids over the pockets: but I cannot see any propriety in neglecting improvements that may be made in dress, any

more than in any other article of use ; and I think it must be evident, that a double breasted coat and waistcoat are certainly better adapted to the use they are intended for, although I admit, and fully believe that the single or straight ones, in the way they are worn by the young Friends are much the neatest and prettiest.

Friend. “ Yes,” looking around on the young company, and checking a raised voice, “ yes, I think a plain coat is certainly the neatest.”

Caroline. But if you admit of one thing, or prefer it on account of its beauty, instead of convenience, you must allow the same principle to go clear through : if you do one thing simply to please the eye, you may another, unless the expense is disproportionate.

Friend. We ought not to do any thing merely to gratify the lust of the eye.

Caroline. True, but we ought to do as much for the ease and comfort of the eye, as any other part of the body, and more as it is more susceptible ; it is as painful to the eye to rest on disagreeable objects, as it is to the feet to stand on rough places, and those that can conveniently be removed in both cases, it is reasonable should be done. How much nature has done to delight the eye, and through that relieve the mind from care. See the vegetable and animal kingdom, and particularly the feathered race, how endlessly variegated ; how splendidly and minutely beautiful their plumage, which sets at defiance all human skill to attempt to copy them in their bright-

est hues. When for our pleasure the Creator has condescended thus to clothe creation, shall we endeavour to reverse the order which he has established ; and because he has left us to dress ourselves, shall we attempt to set him a pattern, and instead of clothing ourselves so as to assist ever so triflingly in buoying up the mind in cheerfulness, hang ourselves in such garments as are unavoidably associated with the idea of penance and austerity; old age and gloom of mind will come soon enough of themselves.

Friend. Thou art taking in much ground with the subject. I can only observe to it that Providence has seen meet for purposes of his own, perhaps, to give us a faint idea of his power and attention throughout all the minutiae of nature, to adorn and enamel his creation in matchless variety and beauty : yet he has given to us a more important care than imitating inferior creatures, whose only excellence consists in the tints of their plumage, which are to exist perhaps but for a summer, or at most but for a few. We are here but in a state of preparation to be clothed upon with our house from heaven ; we are rational beings designed for immortality : when we shine it must not be with perishable ornaments, but with gold tried seven times in the fire, the lustre of which cannot be soiled by the lapse of eternal ages. Our great Pattern wore a garment without a seam : he did not endeavor to buoy up his spirits by the brightness of colors or ornaments, although he condemned the wide borders of the garments and broad

phylacteries of high professing hypocrites. Perhaps the outward creation is so ornamented and beautified, in order to shew how transitory such beauty is. The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, &c.

Caroline. Your arguments, sir, have great weight with me; but when I apply them to myself, they do not seem to fit me. The venerable and worshipful Pattern you have introduced, made his appearance in a humbled state; all the beauty of nature was his; but he fashioned himself as a servant. As respects myself, and probably it is so with many others, I verily believe that humility prompts me to dress as much as pride. When I think the least of myself, and the most of the company I am going amongst, I am most careful to endeavor to render myself more tolerable by dressing; but on the contrary, if I think I am going into company that I am fully at par with, (though I confess this occurs but seldom) I think I will not put myself to much trouble.

One of the company. Then I think thou hast much honored us by those curls and combs in thy hair.

Caroline. Why, it did not cost me so much time to make them, as it did my mistress there to clear-starch her plain cap, and there is muslin and flour which might have been put to other uses: but I do not wish you to press me farther in the argument. What I have said has been to obtain light from you; I am as much in favour of plainness as you are, or rather as much opposed to affectation and

pride in dress, only my views of moderation are not circumscribed to any peculiar mode, but capable of being applied to any, excepting where the first step is an excess.

Friend. I like that idea; I believe it may be said of us as Paul said to the Greeks: "I see that in many things ye are too superstitious." To say we must do nothing to please the eye would draw a line that none of us would be willing to walk by; and on the contrary to attempt to rival the lily or that Canary bird, would be still farther removed from possibility. I know of no better rule than to adhere in this, as in all other cases, strictly to our fundamental principle of keeping peace in our own minds.

The company in listening to this discourse had become silent and seriously attentive, and when the Friend ended his last reply, Caroline thinking she had lengthened out the debate, and attracted full as much attention upon herself as was agreeable to her modesty, remained silent, as did all the rest. She perceived that several had dropped their heads on their hands or breasts, and after some minutes spent in this way, the Friend who sat by her kneeled; she arose upon her feet with the others, and he made a long and impressive address to the throne of Mercy, commencing in a low and deliberate voice, and increasing in rapidity and loudness, as his feelings became more enlisted in his exercise; and at last when he interceded for the preservation, and right direction in all things, of the precious visited young woman who was present with

them, and far removed from her near and dear relations, and that she might be permitted in due time to return to them, not only without any afflicting stroke of Providence to mar the happiness of their meeting, but that she might, like the little captive Syrian maid, carry to her father and to her mother the message of "I would ye were with the Prophet which is in Israel :—" The unexpectedness of such a petition in her behalf—the solemn countenances of all present, and the affectingly earnestness and sincerity of the venerable suppliant on his knees by her side, overcame her endeavors to maintain a strict firmness, and she burst forth at once into tears and uncontrollable sobs, which were no easier stifled when he referred to the young man similarly situated, rendering thanks for his recovery from a sick bed and rolling pillow; and desiring that his future life might evince that as his sickness was not unto death, it might be for the greater glory of God.

After this, the sitting broke up, and the stranger passed around amongst the whole company, and shook each one by the hand, bidding them farewell. When he took Caroline's hand, she held her handkerchief to her face with the other, and being unable to reply to his benediction, she courtesied and returned his expressive grasp. Edgar stood at the further side of the room, and through his eyebrows regarded the scene in the calm light of moral philosophy; but not without feeling enough to lead her to the carriage in a serious mood, without speaking to her; she hastily

entered and seated herself out of his sight. He soon took leave of the family himself and returned to his uncle's, where, on meeting Penelope, he informed her in a light and jocose manner of all that had taken place. She chid him for his irreverence, and expressed a wish that it had as much effect upon him. He was not without reflections, which were of a more serious nature than he chose to manifest; but he was puzzled to satisfy himself how much of the effect of such opportunities was to be ascribed to an artful play upon the passions, and what part was to be attributed to the special visitation of the spirit.

Edgar informed Penelope that it was his intention to pay Caroline a visit on the next day, preparatory to his departure for home, and requested her company as a means of facilitating an interview: to this she freely consented, but at the moment of their departure company arrived, which she could not feel herself at liberty to slight so far as to leave. He, therefore, rather than longer to postpone his painful suspense, resolved to proceed alone. His horse and chair having arrived from Albany, they were ordered ready, and immediately after dining he departed. The red and yellow leaved wood, composed chiefly of oak and chesnut, waved with melancholy and lonesome vibrations before the pressure of the autumnal winds; whilst the sun appeared to hang powerless over the western horizon. On an eminence, in a grazing field adjacent to the road, were assembled an innumerable concourse of crows, on the ground, and perched

upon the stakes of the fence and bending mul-
lins, with one for a sentinel on the most eleva-
ted twig of a high tree : as they were evi-
dently in consultation, he stopped to observe
their movements, and could discover carriers
dispatched to different points, who pursued
their course with the most undeviating direc-
tions until their undulating pinions were by
distance lost to the eye in the blue and liquid
expanse of ether ; before these started the air
resounded with their uniform yells, which were
immediately suspended on the departure of
the messenger or spy : others apparently of
the same character occasionally arrived from
distant places, which would again occasion a
general expression of sentiment, in which
there appeared to be but little variety.

On his arrival he was invited into the par-
lour, where the amiable Mistress paid to
him the most marked attention on the account
of his recent illness, and unconfirmed reco-
very, offering him a glass of wine, and desi-
ring him to permit her to procure him other
refreshment, which he cordially thanked her
for, but denied being under any neces-
sity for. After some minutes spent in a fa-
miliar, though forced conversation, he ven-
tured to enquire after Caroline, saying that he
wished to notify her of his intended departure
for home, that she might if she chose improve
the opportunity to write to her friends : to
this the mistress replied that Caroline had just
received letters from home, and that she
thought probably such an opportunity as he
offered might be acceptable ; enquired when

it would be probable he should start, and advised him not to let it be before he was sufficiently recovered to endure the fatigue of the journey; and also said she would advise Caroline of his kind offer, and that she would doubtless be prepared for it. Edgar began to imagine that she designedly evaded the necessity of his seeing her, on the subject which he had before supposed would have led directly to an interview; and before he had satisfied himself on the propriety of asking directly for such a favor, and whether it might not be an infringement of the established regulations of the school, an elegant young man bearing a modest insignia of military office, leisurely entered the room, and the Mistress asked Edgar F. if she should introduce to him Capt. W. The latter expressed much satisfaction at seeing him, warmly congratulated him on his recovery; lamented that whilst their homes were so contiguous they had so long remained strangers, and concluded by hoping that they might no longer continue so. He stated that he had come directly from Adsonville, that he had called upon Edgar's parents, being informed, said he, by Dr. Humphry, that you were in these parts, and I have the satisfaction of informing you that they enjoy good health; and finally said he had a packet of letters for him, the delivery of which he had intended should furnish him with an excuse for paying a visit to Plainville, which place was delightful to him on account of its association with the most pleasant part of his

life, having spent two or three years there at a private school.

The frank and affable manner of the Captain immediately secured Edgar's favorable opinion, but it struck to his heart the dreadful conviction, that all his apprehensions and fears of him as a rival were better grounded than he had hoped. Hitherto his educational prejudice against military characters had cherished in his mind the idea, that Caroline's sensibility and nice discernment would correspond with his own sentiments; but now at the very threshold of acquaintance, he perceived that she might accept and admire him, and yet be all that he had ever conceived her to be. In releasing, as he supposed, the certainty of his incalculable loss, he endeavored to derive some satisfaction from the idea that she would still be happy, and possessed by one not unworthy of her affections or her incomparable perfections.

As their conversation turned upon Adsonville, the Captain suddenly said to the mistress, "where is Caroline; she is interested in this chat, can't we have the pleasure of her company?" she replied she would immediately call her. This he politely endeavored to save her the trouble of, by offering to go himself; but she said her presence was necessary in the school, and desired him to excuse her on that account.

Edgar admired the ease with which he requested Caroline's company, whilst to him it would have occasioned considerable embarrassment; his jealous mind was not in the least at

a loss for reasons to ascribe it to, and which were no ways favorable to his hopes.

After some minutes longer than it would have taken the Mistress to go to the school-room, and for Caroline to return, the door slowly opened and the latter entered, without any other marks of embarrassment than a deep blush on her cheeks, which rendered her appearance more than ordinarily a most exquisitely finished model of all that in a female form, could be accounted lovely or beautiful. She accosted Edgar with increased colour, whilst the captain appeared slyly to watch with a faint smile on his lips, their motion, and appeared a little disappointed in discovering in Edgar something which had the appearance of distance, whilst the latter regarded the Captain's countenance as the involuntary indication of an honest pride in the conquest of such a prize. Caroline took a chair nearer the Captain than Edgar, who thought he had never before observed her to maintain so much prim in her position on any occasion. I suppose, said the Captain, I need not introduce you to each other as you have been shipmates: I have been on that island myself with the doctor, the old people who entertained you there are both dead. Caroline started, and raising her hand to her handkerchief parallel with her head, both dead! said she, is it is possible, they must have suffered for assistance.

Captain. I understood from the doctor, that from the nature of the disorder, the old lady, who died on the island, could not have been materially affected by her situation; she

appeared to have been plentifully supplied with small stores in their cabin, which they said you had furnished them with; and the old man died at Mr. F's, and has left a will or some other document directed to Edgar, which I think likely is enclosed with the other dispatches that I have for you, which are in my trunk at the tavern. I will fetch them immediately.

This Edgar prevented him from doing, by saying that if nothing else would bring him to Plainville, he should impose the task upon him of bringing them. After some further conversation on the subject, it was finally agreed that Edgar should drive by the tavern on his return home, and leave the Captain to take his own time in the succeeding week, to pay him a visit, upon the express condition that he should not fail to come: when this was settled the Captain leisurely took up his hat and walked out of the room, evidently with the sole view of leaving the remainder of the party to themselves. A long silence ensued, Edgar holding his head down, as if to prevent his countenance from betraying the heart rending emotions of his soul, at the idea of this being the moment of his final parting with all the hopes that had for a long time fed his imagination with prospects of rapture and happiness. Alone (said he mentally) with Caroline, and no longer at liberty to urge my suit, no longer do I dare even to demand of her that answer which I have before so often assured her, I would calmly acqui-

esce in, or submit to. I then supposed that any thing was preferable to suspense, but I now find there was no such resignation in me; it was the secret confidence that her decision would be propitious, that made me demand it; now that I discover that nothing but a seal of everlasting blast and mildew will be put upon all my felicity, her verbal sentence becomes altogether unimportant, I already wither under its execution: I must now tear myself from her forever, violate every feeling of my soul, break the finest strings of my heart, and go forth from her presence, tenfold more wretched than a snow white leper. If it must be so, may I not take one more, one last and parting embrace; and if I must bid her an eternal adieu, derive one more moment of happiness by leaving it inscribed upon her lips, she cannot be so insensible as to refuse or resent it. Why in the name of mercy and heaven has she not long ago informed me of this, and nipt my ill-founded delusion in the bud, before it had attained such a frantic and irremediable height. But I cannot censure her, she has never given me grounds to build my presumptuous tower upon, it must now tumble down and bury me in its ruins.

Caroline had watchfully and seriously regarded him, and as he rose and walked the room she saw agitation and agony so plainly depicted in his countenance, that she became alarmed for the consequence. She arose and met him in one of his turns, but he appeared not to notice her, until raising her fair hands,

she placed them on his breast; saying, Edgar, my dearest, my best of friends, what afflicts thee, so suddenly, so dreadfully? He started back, yet retaining her hands he repeated, "thy best, thy dearest friend!" how those words would once have thrilled my heart, but now—

The Captain was heard advancing through the hall, and as he entered the door Edgar kissed her hands and released them. "Aye, Caroline," said the Captain, as he passed carelessly by them, "this looks a little more like it."

Edgar walked leisurely to the window and appeared as if his attention was taken by something in the garden. This instance of Caroline's tenderness towards him had not materially altered his prospects in regard to her sentiments of him, and the casual observation of the Captain, as it was not made to him, he declined scrutinising, but calling in the aid of philosophy, and summoning what resolution was left in him to his assistance, he resumed his chair with an air of composure; which, when Caroline observed it, much raised her spirits, and the reserve which she had hitherto shewn, appeared to be lost in the gay freedom with which she criticised the Captain's taste in some pamphlets he had purchased of a pedlar, who had besieged him at the door. She also attempted to extend her liberality to Edgar, but it was evident to him that it was without the same success. The crimson tide that flowed into her cheeks when she spake to

him, gradually ebbed, when the Captain took her attention, and her thrilling blue eyes, the full fire of which the Captain could bear unmoved, were fortunately for Edgar, but partially opened upon him.

Edgar conceiving that the errand on which he had come, had now become hopeless, in his despair had forgotten to mention to Caroline any thing about either letters or returning home, whilst to appearance her attention was wholly engrossed by the Captain. When preparing to depart she manifested a wish to assist him to his cloak, and in a whisper desired him not to be in haste about going home, saying, "you'll find the Captain an agreeable companion, and he desires your good offices with Penelope's parents." Edgar, at hearing this, stood motionless and mute with surprise, but soon answered, "if that is so, I'll stay to all eternity;" at which she made a feint to strike him on the mouth.

The Captain rode with him to the tavern, where he had put up, and on their way occupied every moment in passing the highest encomiums on Caroline, as a person possessing transcendentally every virtue and charm which can adorn, or render valuable the female character; whilst Edgar, although this was no news to him, listened with silent astonishment at its coming from a quarter from whence it could not possibly be expected upon any other ground than that of disinterestedness, in the object of his eulogy: this reflection connected with all that had taken place during the afternoon, again turned the

st ong current of feelings, and produced a tumultuous sea of uncertainty in his breast. He remained in the carriage while his friend brought out the packet, and then urged him immediately to accompany him to his uncle's. This the Captain excused himself from, saying, "you will require leisure to attend to your letters, I will take some other time."—Do not fail, then, said Edgar, you will be pleased ; but I forget, you say you are acquainted with the place. Better, replied the Captain, perhaps than you are ; there is scarcely a hill, wood or valley, or even a field, in which I have not roamed, sometimes on a scout with Penelope, in search of, and to drive home, young turkeys : and I have often assisted in delivering out the rations to the calves : when I have more time I will detail to you an expedition I made once up the hay-meadow brook—but I am detaining you.

Edgar. Since you have mentioned Penelope, I will add, that all you have said of Caroline, belongs with equal justice to her.

Captain. Did you ever know two eyes more alike ? but if we begin to talk about her you had better put up all night.

Edgar. I must return, they'll think I'm dead ; they are over anxious. What a nurse Penelope has been to me ! I shall never be at ease until I can render her some service in return ; I should be most happy in an opportunity.

Captain. Perhaps you may have one, and I hope you may be successful in serving her. I am most happy in meeting you here, al-

though we have never been acquainted, when we might have been, yet your character I am no stranger to ; in it I have a pledge for the hasty confidence I place in you : I wish you a good evening.

Edgar. Good evening—I thank you ; a prospect of further acquaintance opens to me new hopes of happiness, which I should be miserable in seeing blasted.

Captain. Go on, I shall keep you here all night.

Light and detached clouds were successively hovering across the face of the placid moon, by a cold northwest wind, which, however, occasioned no inconvenience to him : his mind was too intently and agreeably entertained in reviewing the occurrences of the preceding afternoon, and each of them went to discredit the idea of there existing any such attachment between the Captain and Caroline as he had but just before supposed he had such strong reasons for believing. He now resolved that it would have been impossible under such circumstances, for Caroline in his presence to have carried herself with that easy familiarity towards the captain, nor could he believe had she been under any special obligation to him, she would have been so indifferent at being surprised by her lover in dalliance with another ; which he rather thought appeared to gratify her than otherwise. Her request for him to prolong his stay, and that to facilitate the Captain's views in regard to Penelope ; and the Captain's frank and unreserved commendations of Caroline, would, but for the late

deep impression of despair (which would not be so suddenly entirely erased,) have effectually dispelled from his mind every doubt of their friendship and freedom being any thing more than what proceeded from having been brought up as children of the same family.— He could account now for Penelope's reserve, in regard to the Captain's visits to the school, without their implicating Caroline.

On arriving at his uncle's, the first thing that caught his attention was Penelope's white gown playing in the wind, as she listened for the sound of his carriage. She met him at the gate, saying, "Caroline does not love thee so well as I do yet, or she would have sent thee home before dark, on such a windy evening, or kept thee all night." "Perhaps," he replied, "upon the right principle for women, of love for love, she has not so much grounds for it." "Aye," said she, "let me go and hide as Caroline did, and see if you'll go crazy, or hug me down to the floor when you find me."

Edgar. You deserve it for a provoking coquette.

Edgar immediately retired to his room to examine the contents of his packet. The first was the letter from the doctor.

CHAPTER VIII.

“ What tale is this ? —————
 ————— Is there not in’t
 A hoary Man whose tongue says strange things ?

—————
 A Maiden, down whose alabaster neck
 Long curling locks come quirling ———.”
Atheneump.



LETTER FROM DR. HUMPHREY.

Most respected Friend,

AFTER giving you to understand that your friends are in good health, I will immediately proceed to inform you, that not long after your departure, an old and infirm man called at the store and enquired for you : after he was informed of your absence, and the time it would probably continue, he did not appear disposed either to tell his business or depart. He was offered victuals, of which he accepted but little During the day, it is said, he went up to Mr. Adson’s and enquired of the

servants for Miss Caroline ; at length towards the close of the day he privately informed one of the clerks that he had a secret which concerned you, and as you were absent desired him upon his honor to recommend to him your most confidential friend : the clerk did me the honor of designation, as the object of his request, in conjunction with your mother, that he might select between us, according to the nature of his business. On understanding that I was a physician, he lost no time in deliberating farther, but immediately informed me that it was at his hut, that you and Caroline found a shelter at the time you were blown on his island ; and that as you had such good luck, and from the goodness of your heart, and from gallantry on account of the young lady that was with you, he expected you would not refuse him a favor of which he stood in need, in addition to what had already been conferred ; and finally that his old wife was in a strange way, taking no notice, either of him, his household concerns, nor any thing else ; that he had attended to her faithfully and patiently, provided for himself and her, in expectation it would go off ; but she continued to fail, and would eat nothing but what he almost forced down her, and that he had finally become alarmed, lest she should die on his hands alone, and that he had now come for assistance from you to procure a doctor, &c.— Although the old man delivered this to me in confidence ; yet I thought best to open it to your father, who immediately ordered one of the sloop's boats, manned with two oars on a

side, and a double complement of men, so as to change when the first were fatigued. The crew was soon made up by volunteers from the sloops and store, and with plenty of small stores. We set out the same evening in great glee, with the old man for a pilot, and his log canoe in tow ; and before day we landed, and proceeded immediately to the hut. Before a light was struck up, I perceived by her breathing that she was in a deep lethargy : after the light was made, the poor old man endeavored every way he could devise to awaken her, (which I at first informed him would be useless) and as he found them ineffectual began to be very much alarmed, and called upon her with loud and affecting expressions of grief and lamentation. She lived until the sun once more arose on her forlorn home—and then expired. We then submitted it to the old man, whether he would have her buried here, or brought away, telling him we could lay her decently in the canoe, and tow her down. To this he answered, that for the present, if she could be interred decently here, he would prefer it, as it was uncertain where he himself should be buried ; and the only motive he could have in removing her would be that they might repose together. After some consultation among ourselves, we proposed to him, and he acceded to it, that for the want of boards to make a coffin, we would take his canoe, and sawing it off to the right dimensions close the ends, and make a cover with such pieces of boards as could be found in the boat, and of his furniture, and bury her at sun-

down ; all which was accordingly accomplished, and the same evening we returned. Since that the old man has remained at your house until the last evening, when he also paid the debt of nature. A few days before which, he handed me the enclosed letter for you, which he wrote since he has been here. I have the satisfaction of adding, that they had not lacked for little necessities, as a good store of them is now left in their solitary and deserted cabin; he says they were furnished by Caroline. Enough of this melancholy subject, if so it can be called, which I am doubtful of, for how could they in their destitute situation, expect to have come to a less tragic end.

Captain W. will be the bearer of this; if you become acquainted with him you will find your account in it. He is informed of your views in regard to Caroline, and is disposed to forward them. You will find him instead of a rival, a valuable auxiliary, if indeed any one is necessary. We are all anxious for your return. Please to remember me to the amiable Caroline, and believe that I derive great pleasure in always subscribing myself your sincere friend and humble servant,

J. HUMPHREY.

Edgar F.

On opening the letter referred to, the reader may judge of his sensations when he read the following, which was written evidently by one who had long been out of the habit of hold-

ing a pen, and occupied at least three times as much paper as would have contained it, written with ordinary ease.

To Mr. Edgar F.

SIR—Your friend the doctor will inform you of my last great misfortune; I must confine myself to what I am about to communicate. My last request of your generosity is, that you will either have me laid by my wife, or her by me, this is all. I will now come to something which you will think is of more consequence.

It is now seventeen years since, in passing down this lake, in a small deck boat, I landed at a new settlement, now ———, where I found two or three Indians with their squaws, who had just arrived with a white female child, about one year old, which as it was well dressed, we at once concluded they had stolen; so it was agreed that as we had just landed, to find out, we would pretend to be sent after them, and threatened taking them on board; they persisted in denying the fact, but upon our making a move to fetch some ropes, they watched an opportunity to set the child down and take to the woods, leaving it with a little painted basket in its hand, with which it appeared much pleased. This was more success than the people on shore wished; who declared they had more children than they could maintain, and that we should not leave it with them; therefore we took it on board,

and my wife being the only woman on board, it was unanimously given to her: we proceeded to the eastern extremity of the lake, from whence we proceeded up Black River, and by land, to Dutchess county, where we had a law suit relative to a tract of new land, which of right and justice belonged to us, but which by law was finally awarded to another. If we had succeeded we should have made that child our heir, as we became much attached to it; but having failed, and being saddled with a heavy bill of cost, which we were unable to pay; and having another claim on the government of Canada, in order to prosecute that, and be out of the reach of further trouble and perplexity about costs, and having no children, excepting her, we concluded once more to start for the north. But our prospects respecting success, from experiencing disappointment growing more faint, it became necessary, however trying to us, to dispose of the child. Since our return from the north with it, we had lived in the family of Mr. and Mrs. S. at Plain Ville, who having no children of their own, had repeatedly made overtures to us, to let them have her, promising to adopt her as their own, and educate and provide for her in marriage. They were distantly related to us, but regarded us as of a disposition little less disposed to ramble than the Indians, although it was in the pursuit of our just rights; which, if we could have obtained, we should have been as contented as others. We left her with them about two years of age, in the possession of every earthly comfort and

prospects that an only child of wealthy parents could have : the only danger was of her being over petted. After we had been to Canada, and with our claims spurned from the presence of the governor, we concluded to take possession of this island, and live for ourselves alone.

It is now my painful duty to add that after we had lived here some years, we heard that Mr. Adson had lost a child, (which was a twin to the only one they had left) the same summer that we came in possession of this, which they could not account for, unless it had fell in the lake ; but as we knew the child was as well off as it could be, and they had forgotten their loss, and as we feared from our present manner of life, of being implicated in stealing of it, we kept it a secret. The little basket, a string of beads, and some of the clothes that were on the child, are preserved, and are with her in the care of Mr. S. I have only to add, that when you and Miss Caroline were unfortunately or fortunately at our retreat, and when we found who she was, we perceived that her countenance, and the color of her eyes and hair corresponded to that of the child in question, and had no doubt from the agreement of age, and the circumstances that she is Mr. Adson's child ; as I believed that you and Caroline would be married, and as some return for your kindness, I have made to you this developement. You can act your own discretion as to a further discovery of it to the parties concerned : before you get this, I shall be out of the reach of human censure. I have given

you a true account : Mrs. Adson may remember some mark, I do not ; or she may recollect the clothes or beads, or some other circumstance, that will satisfy her. She cannot think there is any collusion in it, as the child cannot be better off than she is, and I have no favors to ask of her nor of you, excepting the request I have made. May you and Caroline be happy, you have been my last friends.

A. SELKIRK.

P. S. We named her Penelope after Mrs. S. whom she now calls mother, and probably thinks is so. No other person is acquainted with these circumstances, if this letter comes safely to you.

A. S.

What would be the feelings of Edgar ?—how shall he proceed—to whom shall he first open this extraordinary case ? “ What,” said he, as he walked his room with a pace exceeding that of ordinary exercise, “ Mr. Adson wants the Captain to marry Caroline, whilst he prefers Penelope ! Caroline and Penelope are sisters—twin sisters ; and no mortal on earth but myself possessed of the knowledge of the fact—it must be true. I know Mr. Adson lost the child—and here is Penelope at the place where this letter states she was left—there can be no uncertainty.—How plain, how open now, O Caroline ! is the road for us to happiness—how directly before us—within our grasp—I already feel it. I’ll see Caroline to-morrow—I’ll see the

Captain first, and hold a council. I'll give Penelope some mysterious hints of it in the morning—tell her to expect some extraordinary news soon." Then he heard Penelope running up stairs into the adjoining room : she listened, and hearing Edgar up, calls out, " Edgar, is thee up yet?"

Edgar. Yes : what dost thou do up, this time of night?

Penelope. It is but ten.

Edgar. But ten o'clock ! I expected it was past midnight : how long the nights are : how tedious.

Penelope. Oh Edgar, you are sick, I expected it : I'll fetch you something to take : you was out in the evening air.

Edgar. No, Penelope, I am not sick at all ; it is not that which makes me watchful.

Penelope. What then ? nothing I hope which troubles thee.

Edgar. No, thank—nothing of that now ; I have got letters from home.

Penelope. Well, that will do then ; but go to bed if thou art done reading them. What is there in them ? any thing about me ? no it's all about Caroline, I suppose, and hope—

Edgar. There is but little in them about Caroline, but much about Penelope.

Penelope. Tell another—

Edgar. It is a fact ; the letters were brought by Captain W. who will be here to-morrow ; and they are almost taken up with thee and him.

Penelope. Go to bed, I can't see how a

man would dare to talk so after having been so sick.

Edgar. Penelope, what I tell thee is true. I desire thee to prepare thyself for the good news which—I shall have for thee.

Penelope. Cousin Edgar, if I could believe there was a word about me, I would be in there before I slept—who is it from?

Edgar. Thou must not come in here; but it is true, and it is from a physician, and a particular friend of the Captain.

Penelope. You are up and dressed?

Edgar. Certainly, but stay out, I'll tell thee more about it some other time.

The next thing Edgar knew, his door opened and Penelope entered with a countenance bespeaking at once the different indications of firmness of purpose, delicacy in entering his chamber at that time of night, and a little fear that he was yet only teasing her to divert himself.

Penelope. Now, cousin Edgar, if ever I have watched with thee one night, or given thee one dose of powders, do not keep me awake to-night; I cannot sleep until I know what is in those letters, that concerns me, or the —

Edgar. Captain, aye.

Penelope. Yes.

Edgar. Why, Penelope, if I should let thee know all that is in these letters, thou wouldst not sleep again in a month.

Penelope. That's the way thou expects to satisfy me to give it up. Oh, Edgar, what have I heard you so often say, when you could

not help yourself! and now will not treat me as a friend—but continue to tease me, when you see it distresses me. (*Rising to go.*)

Edgar. (*Catching her.*) Nay, stay my dearest Penelope. I am under obligations to thee which I feel, but never can pay—forgive me; I have imprudently got myself into a real dilemma, which I know not how to get out of: but I will now be candid; those letters I verily believe relate wholly to thyself; they contain intelligence which will shake every sensibility of thy nature, and call for the exercise of all thy fortitude: but yet there is nothing but what will, after the first shock is over, add to thy happiness, and greatly to the happiness of others, and cannot wound or hurt any one. I did not intend to raise thy curiosity so much, but by degrees to prepare thee for it.

Penelope. (*Laying her hands on her breast.*) How my heart beats! It can be nothing I have done: what can it be! but the Captain, is it all about him too?

Edgar. No, he is mentioned; there is but little, however, said of him; it relates mostly to thy own history.

Penelope. My history! I know too well, cousin, that there is something either unknown or concealed from me concerning myself and parentage; my dear father and mother are not indeed my real parents—but is it known? dost thou know who they were? has any thing new come to light.

Edgar. There has: I am the only person on earth that knows, and has the evidence of your real parentage.

Penelope. Oh then suppress it, never let me know it; I believe every word thou sayest. But how shall it be that there will not be some disagreeable, some villainous, some scandalous, or at least unfortunate circumstances attendant.

Edgar. No, Penelope, nothing even to make thee blush; nothing to impeach; nothing to lower thee in thy own, or any other person's estimation: it is to restore thee to rich and respectable connections, already dear to thee.

Penelope. Tell me all—already dear to me! oh that it might make thee my brother.

Edgar. I am not thy brother, but nothing gives me more pleasure than a prospect of it. (*smiling.*)

Penelope. Do not say that Caroline is my sister! that will be more;—but I begin rather to doubt of the whole. You say you are the only person on earth that knows it; who wrote that letter?

Edgar. The person who wrote this one, (*taking it up*) is dead; and it was delivered, directed and sealed a few days before his death, and after he was certain of his fate.—But I wish to ask thee a few questions, which may probably give some weight to my assertions. Hast thou any recollection, ever so faint, of being carried off by Indians?

Penelope. None.

Edgar. None?

Penelope. Not the least.

Edgar. Dost thou know any thing about a little basket, a string of beads, and perhaps a

few rags of a child's clothing being preserved with more than ordinary care in the house?

Penelope. I do, I have them in my own care; my mother has desired me always to keep them.

Edgar then remained silent some time, looking her in the face apparently considering whether to tell her further.

Penelope. I can bring them if it will aid thee.

Edgar. No, Penelope, not now, to me; it is past all doubt: thou wilt find in the end there is no room for a doubt: my beloved Penelope and my adorable Caroline, are not only sisters, but twin sisters.

Penelope remained fixed, immoveable as a statue, with her eyes stationary, without their common expression;—contending sensations equipoised her soul and suspended every emotion but breath. At length she threw herself into his arms, laid her head on his breast, and relieved the spasms of her soul in torrents of tears: she several times attempted to speak; but failing in that, she arose, and taking her candle laid her hand on the letters, and with her eyes swimming in tears, looked at Edgar for liberty to take them. He shewed her which to read first: she then retired to her room, whilst Edgar, throwing himself on the bed, listened to discover if she should make a further ado on the occasion.

Penelope read the first letter through, and the fore part of the second, without much difficulty, only that she thought the candle gave a very clear light, until she came to that part

where it mentioned of her holding to her little basket, when the briny fount again broke bulk, and she sobbed so loud that her father and mother, after calling to her and receiving no answer, both dressed hastily and came to her. And when Edgar heard them in her room, he went himself to assist in explaining the circumstances. He found her sitting on the side of the bed, reclined on her mother's breast and choking with sobs. Her father stood by the stand, with the letters trembling in his hand, and vainly endeavoring to find out what they related to, without remembering in his hurry that his spectacles were essential to his object. Edgar took them out of his hand, and perceiving they were exceedingly wet with tears, said "O Penelope, I must be more careful of these documents: one or two more perusals by such liquid eyes will completely destroy them. Then apologizing for want of prudence and contrivance, and declaring that he had intended first to consult with them, he opened to them the subject, and read the letters, reserving only what was said about himself and Caroline in the Doctor's letter. He concluded by telling them there were none yet who knew it, but those who were then in the room, and what further steps were taken should depend upon them. His uncle said, it is well enough known that she is not our child. And Mrs. S. after having spent some time in silent reflection on it, said, Nobody will dispute it that sees them, (meaning Penelope and Caroline;) there is almost sufficient evidence in their looks, with-

out any thing else ; but the other testimony is incontrovertible. Well, those old folks are dead. Aye ; I expected they had been so long before. I do not think Penelope would ever have suffered for any thing, if this never had come out. But I am glad on her account, as she would all her life had turns of grieving. How often has it made me shed tears, when she was four or five years old to see her come in from playing with the neighboring children, crying and saying, A'nt you my Ma-ma ! Such-a-one says you an't my Mama, and that I've got none. But now we shall lose her.

Penelope had become more composed, but at this reflection upon her gratitude, she broke out again, saying no, no, never ; I love no mother, no father but you. They smiled, and Edgar perceiving it a favorable moment to break up, proposed that Penelope should be left to take some rest, saying he expected in the morning to go to the school, and hear the second part of the same tune. They accordingly all advised Penelope to take some repose, and left her, and went below to talk by themselves upon the extraordinary and interesting developement.

As Edgar's aunt wished, without delay or the interruption of answers, to ask, at least, five hundred questions respecting Mr. Adson, his wife, their property, characteristics, &c. with the size and colour of their house, quantity of land, &c. to as many of which, as she gave him opportunity, he returned satisfactory answers. But Penelope was not disposed

to sleep and soon joined them. The fire was reanimated, and they resolved to compensate for the loss of their rest, by an early dish of strong coffee; in preparing which Penelope assisted, and notwithstanding her mental fatigue, flew around as light and spry as if she had stepped on briars.

Edgar walked out to observe the approach of day, and indulge his animating reflections. The shades of night hovered around the doors of the sleeping villagers, the rushing breeze shook the fading rose bushes beneath their windows, and sung through the branches of the tall trees; whilst the protracted and re-echoed notes of the strutting lords of the barn yard loudly proclaimed the eastern dawn of day and resuscitation of nature.

Before the sun smiled across the valley, Edgar was prepared to start, without, as yet, any definite arrangement how he should open the news to the others concerned, so as to afford himself the most diversion, and them the most agreeable surprise: But Penelope expressing an inclination to accompany him, the offer was readily accepted, and when he arrived at the school he determined to remain himself in the rear, and observe Penelope's success in communicating to Caroline the intelligence. After he had been some minutes in suspense, Caroline came to the door with her tooth-brush in her hand, and smilingly calling to Edgar, "what does she mean? she does not know, herself." Indeed she had as yet given Caroline but little intelligence, for coming upon her whilst she was washing her teeth,

and before she was aware of her intention in attempting to kiss her, and with the struggles of Caroline to avoid it, had got the black tooth powder all over her pretty face, and raised a general laugh amongst the scholars ; and now, whilst she had laid aside her bonnet to repair that disaster, Caroline had taken the opportunity to beg some explanation of Edgar of her extraordinary conduct. Edgar said, he should leave her still to find out the mystery from Penelope, as he was sure that in this way it would not come so suddenly as to overwhelm her. But, says he, Caroline, let me ask thee didst thou ever have a sister ?

Caroline. I have had ; you know she was drowned.

Edgar. Caroline, how dost thou know she was drowned ?

Caroline. She was drowned or something worse. We were left alone together on the bank of the lake, and when the nurse returned for us, my sister was missing, and I alone was found. We had just begun to walk alone ; and as they found a hole in the fence, where they were compelled to believe she had crept through, and fell off the bank into the water ; diligent search was made for her, but the water was deep, and she had on a new chintz frock, which, with her bonnet tied under her chin, might have floated her half a mile before she went down. But why, Edgar, why have you set me to telling this melancholy story now ; it cannot be new to thee ?

Edgar. No, Caroline, it is not new to me ; I know more, much more about it than

thou dost ; I know she was not drowned—that she was kidnapped, and still lives.

Caroline. Edgar ! is it so ?

Edgar. It is true. Penelope must finish the story. (*Turning from her.*)

Caroline never manifested so much reluctance before, in parting with him, whatever she might often have felt; but he left her to return to Penelope, whilst he drove to the lodgings of the Captain ; who attempted to conceal his surprise at his early visit, and welcomed him with the cordiality of an old friend.

Edgar requested him to retire with him to his room, where taking out the letters, he communicated to him their contents ; and he also united in the opinion that the evidence was conclusive, and they mutually congratulated each other on the circumstance so propitious to their most ardent wishes. The Captain further stated that he well remembered the circumstance, and had often heard Mr. and Mrs. Adson express their apprehensions lest some more terrible fate had befallen the child than that of drowning. And so strongly were the neighbors possessed of the same idea, that they assembled the next morning to scour the woods but without effect. They concluded for Caroline to write. Edgar offered to be the bearer of the letters immediately to Adsonville : whilst they were talking a messenger informed them that Penelope requested him to send those letters to her : but Edgar chose rather to carry them himself, for fear Caroline should be as liberal as Penelope had been, which would materially deface the

precious record. At the door, the school mistress met them, and requested a moment's conversation with Edgar aside ; and said she was reluctantly compelled to inform him that she had some time since received a letter from Caroline's father, requesting her to prevent any intercourse between Caroline and any person who was a stranger to her, excepting the one who was the bearer of the letter, and who he is, said she, thou knowest : and after the opportunity of spending the afternoon together yesterday, thou wilt conclude no doubt that I was not disposed rigorously to follow the letter of his request ; I had hoped that no necessity would have compelled me to : but since there appears this morning so much excitement, I am ready to think there must be some grounds for his caution, and that I cannot avoid acting according to his instructions.

Edgar felt too confident in his conscious rectitude, and perhaps somewhat too much flushed with his present high prospects to condescend to make any explanations ; he, therefore, politely thanked her for her information, and for her liberality to him the preceding day ; and as the Captain had walked in, he took the letters in question out of his pocket, and requested her to hand them to him, and turned to walk from her : she appeared to feel much hurt at this, and earnestly requested him to walk into the parlour ; but he as warmly thanked her, and continued to walk away. She then went to the room where the ladies were with the Captain, and handed him

the letters. They all asked for Edgar, but she requested Caroline to follow her out. How the Captain and Penelope liked being left alone, and the tender scenes that passed between them, belongs not to this story to relate: it behoves us rather to follow Caroline where she followed her governess, into a retired room, where deliberately setting down, the latter gravely began to open to Caroline, after many introductory and prefatory observations, on the responsibility of her station, as a guardian over females, at the most eventful period of their lives, when one important step, in a wrong direction, might give an unhappy course to the whole path of life. She at length came directly upon her subject, and gave Caroline to understand her father's request, and that she had just communicated it to Edgar. Although Caroline thought her preaching was unseasonable, yet she listened with patience until she had closed this period; when starting up she said; "and so you shut the door upon him. Oh, Edgar, when will you come to be treated by my friends as you deserve! whilst every body else delights to honor and esteem you, it is from them alone you meet with contumely; and but little better than that from me. But I'll follow thee now in my turn, it is but fair." So saying, she left her astonished teacher, and went into the street; but after vainly looking each way, without discovering either him, or his carriage, she was obliged to return to the room to communicate her trouble to her friends, and examine the important letters, with Penelope alone; while

the Captain went to make explanations, and communicate to the Mistress the extraordinary occasion of the morning's bustle. The latter much lamented that she had not known more of it, before she had spoken to Edgar, as such circumstances must remove every thing like a non-intercourse ; (for the captain took care in the relation to attribute it all to the credit of Edgar :) but, says she, why did he leave as if he was offended ; he appeared to take it all in good part, thanked me very much for taking the liberty to speak to him on the subject, and politely declined my earnest invitation to walk into the room.

Edgar, on his return to Plain Ville, made some plausible excuse for having left Penelope at the school, to satisfy his aunt, and took the advantage of the mildness and beauty of the day to enjoy a walk through the cultivated sceneries of his earliest years, but not to indulge undisturbed his imagination in visions of future prosperity and happiness, unmingled with a proportion of the alloy, unavoidably distilled into the chalice of matrimonial felicity. He had not the least doubt now but the object which promised him all his ambition desired, was soon to crown his perseverance with success. But although he felt as a lover, yet he wished to think and act as a man. That if he had committed one error, in being pertinaciously bent upon the attainment of his frail treasure, he might not add to it, by still looking to that one object as the only hope of life, or source of satisfaction ; but that he might rather look to her as a faithful, unsus-

pected friend, united to him firmly, by the most tender connexion; having no other end, aim, wish, sentiment or opinion, but what centered in, arose from, and coincided with his own, that they might be, as the old Friend said, "bone of one bone, and flesh of one flesh."

Instead of being for love, and for Caroline, much as he loved, admired and esteemed her, he considered that which he owed to her was strictly speaking of a secondary nature, compared with his duty as a citizen of the world; and that his enjoyments derived from her society, instead of being the uniform elements of his mortal life, or the steady field of its exercise, should be like an occasional retreat from the cares of the world, like a pleasant arbour in a sultry sun, a shelter from the storms of the world, and a hallowed sanctuary where no rude cares shall dare to intrude on moments dedicated to the secret endearments of conjugal devotion, calculated to wind up and invigorate the springs of natural ambition and industry, and of parental and social obligation.

Whilst on the brow of a distant hill, he was thus subjecting his passions to the restraints of philosophy, he saw a carriage stop at his uncle's door. He waited until he observed two ladies leave it and enter the house, and thence discovering, according to his expectations, that Caroline had come home with Penelope—he hastened his return, and came upon them whilst Caroline was examining the articles which Penelope had in keeping, and which

with her own, which were also preserved, and every suspicion of doubt removed from their minds.

As Edgar entered, they both watchfully regarding his countenance, began to apologize for their beloved teacher's rebuff; and Penelope said, that Caroline ran up and down the street after him till she lost her comb. Edgar, watching her blushes, said carelessly, it was something very new for her to do so much for him.

Caroline. I never can do enough.

Edgar. I have thought that the least intimation of favor or regard from thee, Caroline, would be sufficient to satisfy my ambition: but I find that my demands increase with every concession, and, like the miser, the more I have the more I want.

Penelope. Well, supposing she gives you herself, heart and all, will you be satisfied? you can't have more than the cat and her skin: but I'll go, and leave you to settle it between yourselves, before cousin Edgar lectures me for the use of what he calls vulgar aphorisms.

What passed when Edgar and Caroline were left alone, we must not presume to state further than that she no longer waited, than for Edgar once more to renew the protestations of his undiminished, of his increasing, though more disciplined affection, before she confessed to him that he was already in possession of all that she had to give; that her hand she was not sure belonged to her to dispose of, but that her heart and esteem it was out of her power to retain; that she had not tamely sur-

rendered them, but that he had extorted them from her by a long and steady course of the most generous attention, flattering and unmerited partiality; and although, said she, it might be still a weakness in me to make the acknowledgment, yet I should blush most for myself if it was not true.

Edgar received her plighted affection with the just sense of the inestimable value of her incomparable accomplishments and native worth, which were of a nature not to fade till virtue dies; to a countenance and person which never failed to attract the attention and convey a ray of delight to every beholder, was added a mind every way calculated and adorned to govern it, with a grace which should give additional lustre and interest to such an exquisite model of female perfection. It were hard to tell by her most intimate acquaintance, whether she was the most naturally grave or gay,—whether her demeanor was the effect of constant discretion and reflection, or of native simplicity and the impulse of innocence—whether she loved most to ramble alone through the solitary dell, and listen to the warbling grove, or murmuring rill, or float in the arms and affections of her beloved associates, unconscious of the halo of admiration and distinction inseparable from her presence; certain it is, that she possessed that sweetness of disposition and unaffected humility of deportment, that desire to please and never to hurt or offend, which had the power to shine without raising envy. There were none who were not willing to do her homage,

because they saw there was evidently no disposition in her to demand it. They considered that although she possessed the merit of her perfections, yet they claimed the honor of their just appreciation.

Edgar and Caroline, before they separated, took into calm perspective such obstructions as were likely still to thwart the consummation of their highest earthly hopes. Edgar gave her to understand that he had accidentally become acquainted with her favourable opinion of the Friends, since her acquaintance with them, and asked her ingenuously to confess, whether she retained that impression yet of them: he did not, he said, ask the question because he considered it immediately regarded their connexion; but he wished her to consider whether as he grew older and settled down into more steady habits, if he should become more tenacious of their principles and conformable to their habits, it would be regarded by her as a misfortune, or would have, in her present estimation, a tendency to render him less agreeable to her. To this Caroline answered, that she knew no reason for altering her judgment in that particular, and as to what alterations he might undergo in any respect, she never should suffer a moment's uneasiness.

“But,” says she, “Edgar, I have become well enough acquainted with your rules to be aware that if you marry any person out of the meeting, however deserving. (if it was me I should not blame them) you must be considered a criminal, and be subjected to excom-

munication inevitably. This will undoubtedly lessen you in the estimation of many of your friends, and subject you to a course of tantalizing form, which, however, you may consider imbecile, cannot fail to be disagreeable. But think, Edgar, if I should be so (otherwise) happy as to be the favoured object, how hard it would be, to me, to be considered the occasion of thy offence: couldst thou consent thus to have me looked upon coolly, and treated as an interloper? or rather as one who had drawn away from the path of duty, one who otherwise might have been an ornament to the Society. You have my esteem, you have my gratitude, my heart; but none of these need make thee unhappy, which my hand may. There are many amiable young women I am acquainted with, and many more you must undoubtedly know, who belong to the meeting, that—that—

Edgar. That is well thought of Caroline. I know also many very agreeable and worthy young men, who do not belong to the society, who will make a very genteel and agreeable woman a husband: I will marry one of those young ladies, if I can get them, and thou shalt have one of the world's people, and then there will be no infringement of discipline; and I shall have, thou sayest, thy heart, and thou knowest thou hast mine, so where will be the harm; I shall certainly have that which I value the most, and without which I would not accept thy hand.

But seriously, Caroline, I consider thee as much a Friend as I am in principle; why

not petition the meeting, then, instead of being looked upon coldly ; thou wilt be regarded as an acquisition ?

Caroline. I should be regarded with contempt, as one who meanly crept in to facilitate another object. Oh, Edgar, never for thee. I wish nothing more sincerely than that I was worthy, and did belong ; it is, or at least ought to be the primary object, but I can give no idea of the enormity, that it is in my view to practise deceit in such a case, to invade the church, and make the means of salvation a mere cat's paw to facilitate my own temporal views.

Edgar. Why, really Caroline, when I had just flattered myself with the thought that all impediments to our union were removed, thou art preparing another gulph between us as deep as Lazarus's.

Caroline. What an extravagant expression ! how do I do that ?

Edgar. Thou wilt not permit me to marry out, for fear I shall be excommunicated, neither wilt thou join the meeting to marry in.

Caroline. In the first expedient, I fear (thou wouldst lose more than thou wouldst gain, in giving so many good friends for one : what a fearful odds in the scale ! and as to the second I am not fit, I wish to heaven I was.

Edgar. The whole world, in my estimation, would not weigh against thee ; I speak without exaggeration, not but that there may be many who are thy equals in every respect, but thou hast engrossed my affections, and I am blind to the merits of all others ; thou art

all the world to me, because with thee I can enjoy it, and without thee I can enjoy nothing.

Caroline. A sad state ! I should tremble to undertake the responsibility of realising to thee such great expectations.

Edgar. It will cost thee no effort, only act thyself, my partiality will do the rest.

Caroline. You seem to be sensible of your hallucination : I have often wondered how wise men could be affected with hypochondria ; I believe that philosophers are as apt to be in love as any others, but then (*smiling archly*) I believe they are sooner over it.

Edgar. Thou hast just now given thyself to me ; I have the curiosity to know in what light thou considerest the gift ; not that I mean to be any ways tenacious about the terms, for I accept it on any conditions.

Caroline. I gave myself to thee ! it was Penelope that said that, not me.

Edgar. Do you think to get off so ? you said I had your esteem,—yes, and your—let me see—gratitude—what that may be for, though I cannot tell.

Caroline. There's ground enough for it ; yes, I said that, what else ?

Edgar. And your heart ; there now I have you.

Caroline. Well, how far does that establish your claim to me as yours.

Edgar. Why, I do not expect you would be willing to have your heart separated from your body !

Caroline. Indeed, the idea conveyed by

that figure looks horrible ; but perhaps by making use of that term, I conveyed more than I meant.

Edgar. Well, explain then, let's understand it—qualify it.

Caroline. You have my esteem and gratitude, unqualified in its fullest extent—

Edgar. Thank you for so much; go on, let's see what else.

Caroline. And what I meant by adding my heart, was, that accompanying those sentiments, there was a kind of (*here she spoke very deliberately*) a kind of interest—I cannot convey the idea, but (*looking up and brightening in her countenance, and quickening her words*) there's much Edgar. conveyed in the term gratitude, where it is sincere in a female : I do not know, finally, as I could have conveyed my meaning better than I did; I do not feel disposed to take back any part of it, and I also admit, that when the heart is gone, there is little left to contend about : but I do not think there is any need of being crazy to get married.

Edgar. Now I think I understand you, you decline taking any thing back if you could ; and when your heart is given, your person is not worth retaining, and yet you think it not important to be married.

Caroline. I assure you that you quite misunderstand me, or else I misapprehend myself. But the more I say, the more I entangle myself; may I forever be delivered from having the vanity to attempt another argument with you.

Edgar. I hope you may have many if you are not more pertinacious in them than you are in this.

Caroline. I hope at least if I do, that I may never forget the vast difference which I owe to your superior judgment—and I desire also never so far to forget what I owe to it, as to presume to correct any thing I may imagine inconsistent in you: but there is one trifling circumstance it would be gratifying to be informed in.

Edgar. What may that be?

Caroline. I discover that in discourse you appear to be altogether indifferent whether you make use of the *plain language* or that of the world.

Edgar. Well I perceive the same in thee.

Caroline. True, but I am under no obligation, it is altogether supererogation with me, if there is any goodness in it. I only use it occasionally because I think it is pretty, and to be complaisant to those who love to speak it, and I suppose to hear it.

Edgar. I make use of the common language, sometimes, for brevity, and sometimes to shew that I am not so superstitious as to believe it is wicked to use a plural instead of a singular pronoun—in the origin of using the plural number to one, I have no doubt it was flattery, and a sin, but it is no longer used in that acceptation, and as words are but merely sounds to convey our meaning, I cannot discover that in reality there is much in it.

Caroline. But your rules require it, and therefore so long as you are a member and

partake of the privileges of society, you ought to comply with them: and if you avoid it on account of the cross, or for fear of being called a Quaker, it is still sin; forgive me, it is no sin in you.

Edgar. Now I think you are very well fitted to be taken in the meeting, and made an overseer of immediately.

This discourse was carried on with more of pleasantry than seriousness, but was at length interrupted by the Captain's joining them, and according to his promise to give Edgar an account of an evening's ramble, he commenced by saying:—

“ When about fifteen years old, I engaged with some other boys upon a night excursion, for hunting raccoons: it was in the commencement of autumn, and when night-fall had relieved my athletic companions from their cares, we sallied forth, each armed with a fowling piece, and accompanied by a dog celebrated for his activity in this kind of sport, and one or two others, which their owners were anxious should profit by his example. We followed the course of the Honey Meadow Brook, towards its source, through the winding meadows that sported its banks; on either side of which the rising hills, with their dusky summits rose in still and solemn grandeur, limiting our moonlight prospect to the valley through which we passed, until we entered the spacious and stately forest, called the Ludlow Woods. This forest is owned by a rich family of that name, who reside in the city of

New-York, and who tenaciously guard it against the ravages of the destructive axe, thereby preserving it as an ornament to the country, a refuge for such animals as have been ejected from the surrounding country, and as a seasonable supply of timber for future generations. It is covered with the most magnificent white oaks, whose tall straight trunks, with their white bark, give, by moonlight the most soothing and sublime sensations, their lofty foliage, uniting to form a canopy, effectually looks down all attempts of aspiring inferior shrubbery to live beneath their shade, and the spaces are left entirely clear of underbrush; through this scenery, this delightful brook winds its course. On its banks, during the sultry part of the day, in summer, may be seen the wild pigeons descending to quench their thirst excited by the

“ Hot thirsty food”

of acorns; from whence, if frightened by the solitary wanderer, they take refuge in the towering tops of the trees, and turning their nodding heads, to bring first one and then the other of their little red bound eyes to bear upon the intruder, appear to consider themselves elevated above all danger from the featherless animals of the nether world. The centre of this forest for many years was the habitation of a family by the name of Huddleston, who from too much pride to be poor amongst the rich, or from a propensity to a savage life, or contempt of society, an unconquerable indolence, or some unaccountable

trait which human nature is prone to, chose this situation; and maintained it against every attempt of the owners or their agents to dislodge them; the destruction of their cabin, with all its furniture, (which often befel them) was of so little consequence as to be easily repaired, and the law they were completely below. The depredatory nature of their tenure, their outlaw character, and their singular and secluded situation, rendered them an object of some curiosity, but more the butt of mischievous boys, who were a greater annoyance to their peaceful possession than the owners, fortified by the strength and officers of the law. Against the latter they were compelled to be always on their guard, and a bloodless, predatory warfare was kept up, wherein many a stripling was ambitious to make a demonstration of his courage and address, in slyly approaching and fastening the door of the hut on the outside, or climbing on the roof and introducing some foreign article into the stick chimney, to cause a sudden surprise to the family, and then to make a safe and expeditious retreat. We traversed these woods until near midnight without any success, although the dogs reconnoitered the ground for half a mile on each side of our path, occasionally crossing close to us without any other noise than what proceeded from their rustling in the leaves, and their panting with exertion; we then held a council about giving up the pursuit. This was too mortifying to be readily consented to, without some substitute or consolation for our failure, and an attack upon the Huddlestons.

fort was readily accepted by all, as the condition of renouncing our hopeless one upon his neighbors and fellow creatures. If our intention was not to hurt them, in our sham attack, we were equally desirous of guarding against accident that might fall upon us; for we were well assured that they would not be so charitably disposed towards us, nor relish our visit as a mere joke, in the same humor in which it was given. A point was fixed upon as a rendezvous, in case of being separated by a sortie. One of our company had every advantage of the rest of us in strength, speed, courage and good nature, and in such enterprises had always the honor of being selected for the post of danger, which he accepted with the more satisfaction, on account that in other cases, and in the round of more polished amusements, his countenance, education and rank, denied him not only the preeminence, but even the company of those who now honored him with the appellation of captain. The force of the enemy consisted ordinarily of the husband, who however, could not be called the head of the family, as that honorable post was decidedly occupied by his competent spouse. John, for we will fix no fictitious name upon him, was deficient in size, in every part of his constitution, excepting his mouth and front teeth, which from their peculiar and projecting situation seemed designed for some animal not furnished with hands; as he never wore clothes that were originally designed for him, his diminutive appearance was compensated for in some measure by their dimensions, although,

if he had gracefulness of shape, it was effectually lost on the beholder, as his coat was generally out of all reason in the length of its waist, and that part of his pantaloons which was made the most roomy, interfered with his natural gait, by draggling at his heels; his hat was always too large, but this difficulty he ingeniously obviated, by wearing that side before which its former owner had kept braced up behind—he had a maiden sister long and lank as a gown hanged out to air, with nothing extraordinary in her phiz excepting the length and deep sled-runner crook of her nose, which was scarcely out of reach of a mouth which extended from ear to ear; but which was happily for its neighbours, unarmed with teeth, altho' abundantly supplied with tongue. She had two fine children; but a man of uncommon stature, strength and ferocious temper and appearance was an occasional boarder, and one or two other straggling characters, sometimes mingled with them, to share the indiscriminate equality in a society unshackled by the forms of civilized life, and to consume the products of a few days' desultory earnings.

It was from him, and Huddlestons wife, that we apprehended the most danger if we should fall into their hands. Having cautiously gained the summit of a small knoll or hill, immediately at the foot of which their hut stood, we were surprised to discover at this time of night, a brilliant light shining through the numerous crannies, and shooting in a thousand pointed rays into the gloom of the surrounding wood. Our captain was not

to be daunted, nor deterred from his purpose by finding them prepared for the attack ; and whilst we halted in our present positions, he softly advanced and reconnoitered them through the crevices which were left between the logs of which their house was loosely laid up; and then retired with information that there appeared to be at least half a dozen men besides the family, who were waiting to partake of a sheep which was suspended before the fire : he then submitted to us whether we should proceed on our original plan, or go in peaceably and see who they were, or return without accomplishing either ; giving his opinion in favor of the first proposition, which being unanimously agreed too, he went down again, and seized a log that lay by the house, with his herculean strength, he placed one end on the ground and the other against the upper part of the door : this was performed with great address and secrecy ; but it had not the effect which he intended of barricading the door, which he supposed from appearance opened outwardly, and which was contrary to the fact ; nor was he so still, as not to arouse the dog which bolted out of her kennel with loud yells. The crew listened for a moment, each with his head turned over his shoulder towards the door, and then moved in a body towards it ; the foremost opened it, and was immediately forced back upon the others by its motion received from the impulse of the inclined log. This a little disconcerted them, but being encouraged by the example of their Amazonian landlady, they

all sallied out, and with shouts and imprecations rushed into the wood in pursuit or search of the intruders. Huddleston took the direction towards us, and unfortunately for him, his wife, who had paused to catch a sound, to give her the right direction, hearing him scramble through the leaves up the hill, took after him. When he had arrived within a few feet of us, as had been concerted, we all fired our pieces in the air. This terrible report, in the stillness of midnight, echoed through the wood with the most terrifying effect, and immediately altered Huddleston's course to a precipitate retreat down the hill; but by the time he had gained an uncontrollable speed, which fear and the descent of the ground gave to him, he came in contact with his faithful wife, who in despite of her superior stability, he, with his advantages, precipitated backwards, falling himself on to her, but with about half his length over her: she, not comprehending the nature of the disaster, concluded she was attacked, and lost no time in securing a position more favorable for defending herself and acting on the offensive, which she soon accomplished, and commenced dealing out her blows with great rapidity. Honest John endeavored to convince her of the injudicious direction of her prowess; but still by the time he got his mouth open, his organs of speech were paralysed by her well directed blows, until despairing of bringing her to a parley, and becoming somewhat enraged at his awkward situation, he had recourse to

blows, and returned her unwelcome compliments with as much force and adroitness as his natural defect in physical ability and disadvantageous position would permit. Luckily for him, our brave captain interfered, for hearing such a repetition of blows, accompanied with that kind of sound produced by expelling the breath suddenly and simultaneously with violent exertion; he made up to the spot, and seizing the lady by her remaining drapery, slung her away; and supposing her antagonist to be one of his company, he very obligingly shouldered him and made off in great haste, to avoid the reinforcement of the enemy which was making towards him. He ran but a few rods with his load before he found out his mistake, and was very willing to comply with the fellow's request to let him go. The noisy slut was alternately at each of our heels, and did every thing but actually seize upon us. I never can forget that kind of enthusiastic ardor and glee with which we ran through the woods, maintaining an equal line, as we could discover by the occasional crackling of broken and dried limbs of trees, although we were several rods apart. I cannot think that we were really apprehensive of danger; but we feigned the idea, in order to see what exertions we could make, and enjoy in imagination the triumph of escape. When we arrived at the skirt of the wood, the rattling down of the stone wall in different places announced that we had all arrived at the place of rendezvous about the same time. Here we halted to take breath, and indulge ourselves

in laughing and making observations on our enterprize. After which we proceeded to a peach orchard, belonging to the father of one of our number, and from thence to a cider-mill, and after regaling in the sweet juice, were disbanded and returned home before day-light."

Edgar prepared to depart the next morning for home, and to be the bearer of the intelligence to Caroline's parents, and have the important discovery receive its final confirmation; and although Caroline was extremely anxious for this, yet she was surprised to find that when the hour was fixed to be so soon, a reluctance to part with him should be felt, and that the time they were to be separated, really looked as if it would be long. Oh, said she, mentally, I every moment find out more of my weakness; if it increases in the ratio that it has for a month past, I shall arrive at that unhappy crisis, which I have so much deprecated, when every other consideration will be sacrificed to it, and I shall no longer demur at that which is now insurmountable. She had always considered it a mark of weakness, and as very improper for a girl to suffer herself to think that she loved, or was herself in reality loved or admired, but to listen to such flatteries as unmeaning words; and the only apology which she could frame to her own mind, was Edgar's steady and tried attachment, considered with his generous and amiable character.

The following is a part of the letter she sent to her parents.

Most Honored Parents,

Can it be possible that you have not already heard; that no kind spirit has apprised you, of that which will soon affect you as it has me! I have shed rivers of tears; I have literally mingled them with those that have flowed from the heart of another;—they flowed from the same cause—they flowed together—they were tears of joy, for a happy, an unexpected meeting—a meeting which neither you nor I expected would ever take place in this world.—I have a sister, I have found her, and you have a daughter, worthy of you, that will far eclipse your Caroline—she whom you have almost forgotten, through lapse of time, to mourn, as strangled by the watry element, now lives; not a wandering inhabitant of the wilderness, a companion for savages, but surrounded by refinement and doating friends; happy as a bird on the wing, blythe as a morning hymn, and healthy as a fresh blown, dew wet rose, and beautiful—oh, mother! but she looks too much like myself to call her handsome; and the goodness of her heart, who can know its full value! her unremitting care saved from the grave the one who restored her to the knowledge of her sister and parentage. How valuable both the service and reward! how justly balanced their accounts! Mr. F. himself is the bearer of this; he has the documents, and he must ex-

plain to you the whole; and if you find, as you certainly will, all this to be true, you will not refuse him the trifle he asks: you will give him Caroline's glove; what if her hand be in it! it is valuable only to him, if it belong to any one, it is to him: if you consider it precious, he is worthy of it; he is the only one I could make such a request for; and you can never blush to see me walk by the side, or lean upon the protection of one universally honored and beloved, and whose only foible is his partiality for me; whose penetration and judgment was never in any other case impeachable: the world will forgive him this; his friends will forgive a single error in a life which belies the doctrine of universal frailty. But, my father, although he has wrested from me the tribute of gratitude and esteem, I have yielded nothing that was under my control, I have promised nothing which was not mine to give: I am thine only, my father: thy desire is my law, and so far as I can avoid it there shall be no infraction of it. Although I write thus plainly, do not suppose any inconvenience will follow to me, if my request, or rather Mr. F's. is not granted; I have not suffered my imagination to feed on dreams; a disappointment shall not cloud the sunshine of my peace, nor trace its lineaments on my brow.

The name that my beloved sister now bears is Penelope Smith. She has lived with, and as the daughter of Mr. S. whose wife is sister to Mrs. F. Edgar's mother. The name of Penelope, I am in hopes she will still be permitted to retain, and the other part will soon,

(with your consent) be exchanged for W. one with whom you are familiar—but I shall not attempt to tell more at present; but have no doubt of seeing you here speedily. In this expectation I bid you adieu! and still subscribe myself your's only.

CAROLINE ADSON.

The era of speechless expression, of averted eyes, of confused hints, tremor and faintings, has passed by: a friendship, firm, affectionate, and respectful, founded on mutual esteem for kindred dispositions, must succeed: they can walk through the garden of nature, and the idea that one conceives, the other is first to express, and every day and occurrence confirms the benevolent sentiment, “it is not good for man to be alone.”

They parted under the buoying hope of soon meeting again, and on the evening of the fourth day, he received the cordial welcome of his friends at home; he selected out the letters for Caroline's parents, which were from her, and her uncle, and from the captain, and dispatched a servant with them to Adsonville; and at late bed time Mr. Adson himself entered, and accosting Edgar in the most respectful manner, said, “you no doubt, sir, know what those letters contain, and cannot be surprised that we wish to know every thing relating to them as soon as possible; my wife could not be satisfied without my coming down this evening, although she expected from the dates of the letters, that you must be fatigued with the length and rapidity of your jour-

ney." Edgar answered him that he but just now understood the extent of his neglect, in not coming himself with the papers, as he ought to have known that such would have been their anxiety, and was very sorry that Mr. Adson had thus been left to the necessity of coming himself.

After some more conversation, Edgar, perceiving that it was only from fear of requiring too much of him that he did not request him to return home with him immediately, offered to accompany him, denying that it would in the least incommode him. They found Mrs. Adson with the letters before her. She arose and met him with her heart and eyes too full to admit of any words; but not without that friendly grasp and expressive look, which bespoke sensations above the eloquence of words. He remained with them, answering all their questions, making explanations and observations, until Mr. Adson desired his wife to look at the clock: she was surprised to discover that they had unconsciously kept him up so late. It is unnecessary to add, that no room was left for doubting as to the identity of Penelope; and it is equally unnecessary to attempt to describe the feelings of parents in such a case. Mrs. Adson anxiously enquired how long it would take for her husband to go down to Plain Ville and return, smilingly telling Edgar that there was but one thing more than what he had done, that she could have wished, and that was that he had brought both the girls home with him. Edgar's eyes just glanced towards Mr. Adson, but he was look-

ing another way, and they remained silent, till Mr. Adson reminded his wife that they should keep Mr. F. up until day. He was then shown where to rest, after Mrs. Adson carefully examined that the bed was in proper order, as she wished to shew every attention possible to one who had so suddenly become, in the highest degree, interesting to them.— He spent the next day mostly at Adsonville, in assisting Mr. Adson to be ready to depart the succeeding day on his journey, and agreed, at his request, to spend every evening, and take up his lodgings at the same place until his return.

During his suspense, the delicacy of his situation in regard to his own parents presented some difficulties in his mind. The prospect daily brightened of an immediate marriage with Caroline. Mrs. Adson herself brought forward Caroline's letter, and read it to him, and made observations on her disposition, the indulgence that had been exercised towards her on account of her twin sister, her health, &c. evidently as if she considered herself talking to one to whom she was about to resign her up as heaven's best gift. It was desirable to him to have his parents consent to his marriage; but yet he knew they were precluded by their society discipline from consenting to his connexion with one not a fellow member; he did not know but that out of regard to him and respect for Caroline they might still be prevailed upon to do it: but then he could not wish to place them in the light of transgressors of their own laws. If he should ask

without receiving permission, he well knew that it would be absolutely necessary to conceal it from Caroline, and to use the least duplicity or evasion to her was revolting to his mind. As it regarded himself he felt perfectly at ease; he considered the regulation in society as indispensable to the policy of preserving its peculiar institutions and practices—yet when the preservation of these interfered with the natural and unalienable rights of its members it became void. As these are paramount to human institutions, and as this was a compact to which he had not become a party otherwise than by birthright, he did not consider its requisitions obligatory upon him, unless he recognized in them, that which was either for his own benefit, or that of the community, without requiring a disproportionate surrender from him. He felt not the least disposition to undervalue the privileges of society, nor to weaken the force of its institutions, as he considered that by them the society had been preserved a monument to the world, of what voluntary institutions, founded solely on moral and without penal obligation, were able to perform in a community. In a religious point of view, he was not so superstitious as to suppose that a compliance with the discipline in this or any other particular would materially affect him.

Edgar continued to spend his evenings with Caroline's mother, and win upon her good graces, until, as she frequently made Caroline the subject of discourse, he ventured to broach the important subject to her; telling her that he

entertained hopes of yet obtaining her parents' consent to devote himself to her happiness. She did not appear surprised, but said that she presumed that any thing on which her happiness depended would have due weight with her; that when they found he had gone to the southward, her father had concluded that on Caroline's return, if she requested it, his consent should be given. He had written to her teacher to prevent any intercourse between them, as he was sensible that Caroline was partial to him; he feared they might be led to take some imprudent step, as the romantic notions which sometimes tincture the minds of youth were not unlikely to affect your peculiar situation; and he could not endure the thought of Caroline's tarnishing the unspotted character which had always rendered her the idol of her acquaintance. He has indeed had very different views respecting her, but it is vain for parents to make calculations for their children before they grow up. The most that now sticks with him is, that your parents should be opposed to it, as if they thought Caroline was below them. I do not know but she is, but it would be exceedingly trying for us to permit her to go under that impression. It excites his resentment, and prevents him from anticipating that pleasure which he should wish to feel on Caroline's forming new and intimate relations. Do you not consider her equally as worthy as if she belonged to the meeting? Or to those who do belong, and to whom no objections by your parents would be raised, but who they would receive with cor-

diality, to you, Edgar, under the influence of education, it may not look as it does to us.

Edgar. I would not wish you to entertain the idea that my parents consider the beloved Caroline below any body; they have no question of her virtue, her worth or any thing else that can adorn human nature. But they consider that the purity of principle, and very existence of the Society depends upon a rigid adherence to this rule. They are sensible that no general rule will always operate without producing private inconvenience: but they suppose that the good that accrues to the community at large will so overbalance, that those who have the good of it at heart, will, in those cases, be willing to suffer. What makes them hold at a distance those with whom their children are about *going out in marriage*, is that their laws require this discouragement to be kept up, therefore we do not in such case, ask, nor expect consent to marry; but after marriage we are invited to bring our wives home, and, where this is the only objection, they are honored, caressed and thought more of than in ordinary cases.

Mrs. Adson. And then you are required to sign a confession that you repent having married her, or be excommunicated?

Edgar. Not so: By my marrying out, I am considered as relinquishing my right of membership voluntarily. And if I wish to retain it, I am required to signify it, and condemn the practice; I am not required to use any such language as shall wound or disturb the

confidence so indispensable to connubial peace and happiness.

Mrs. Adson. Then they do not consider you a transgressor, but merely that you have voluntarily withdrawn from their communion. You are not reported as a delinquent, nor dealt with as such, nor as such excommunicated.

Edgar. I must confess that those forms are still persisted in, but generally with a spirit of liberality which evinces that they in reality do not consider them so. The time is not far distant when this will be dispensed with; and the person merely notified that his relinquishment is accepted, and if he ever wishes to join again, he will be at liberty to make application, without being compelled to make the "amende honorable" to the meeting which banished him. I will never comply with the present regulation; I consider that to perform an act deliberately, and then condemn it as soon as performed, is quite out of character, and to condemn the practice is charitably to condemn that in others, which we justify in ourselves. In many places where friends are numerous it probably is of but little disuse; but where that is not the case, it is evidently oppressive, especially to the females, who being more under the immediate eye of their parents are prevented from cultivating the germs of natural affection, which spring up as the seeds of all the precious family endearments of husband, wife, parent or child; whereby many worthy young women never know the delights and endearments of domestic felicity.

“ Joys which the gay companions of their prime,
Sip as they drift along the stream of time.”

Whilst at the same time some hopeful swain
views them wishfully, at a distance, as forbidden fruit to him,

“ Like yon knot of cowslips on the cliff,
Not to be come at by the willing hand.”

Or, discouraged by the wild and forbidding deportment of her parents towards him, is compelled to torture his affection into some other course. And all this to conserve the political prosperity of a social community, which is designed to reform and happify the world. But where extrusive objects interfere with private and domestic felicity, they deserve to be scrutinized: where public prosperity is not promoted, or accompanied by individual and private happiness, it is altogether ideal. Some sacrifices must, in all communities, be made for the public good; but they must, in a right state of things, be comparatively trifling. To assume at a proper time of life the responsibility, and partake of the cares and enjoy the refined delights of domestic relations, is the main object of this state of existence; and, wherever it is thwarted or frustrated by human institutions, nothing equal can be given in exchange: still nothing can be more absurd than to encourage the idea in young females, that they cannot be both happy and respectable in a state of celibacy. They ought never to indulge such an idea. They must always consider their happiness depend-

ant on themselves, without indulging their imagination to feed on the horrors or happiness of matrimony, or their fancies to fix upon the attainment of it, as an object of pursuit. Such a girl prepares herself for constant disappointment and mortification, and in the end is liable to embrace an offer which her judgment does not approve, and plight her faith to one whom she cannot respect. And the consequence is ten thousand times worse than the fate of Jephtha's daughter, and deserves not the name of marriage.

Mrs. Adson. There is another thing in the manner of the celebration of your marriages. I cannot see how your girls can submit to being exposed before large assemblies, and made to say over the marriage service themselves. Let me see; it is three times, I believe; twice preparatory to their being received. I don't know; but I think Caroline would be the last time more in a situation to be buried than married. I cannot reconcile that to your principles of dispensing with all unnecessary parade and ceremony. I should think that if they were once published in the church, it would be sufficient, and that if the consummation should take place in the house of the lady's father, and in the presence of the parents and friends of both parties, it would partake more of the nature of the subject, and have a cementing effect between the two families, and every necessary end be answered.

Edgar. Our girls have become so habituated to examples of the kind, and are so in the practice of attending select meetings of the

Society, that they consider themselves as amongst their friends. The first time they appear, it is not in a public, but a private meeting of the Society, but it is attended with circumstances equally revolting to at least a fastidious delicacy. The intended bride, after having stood up and heard a statement of the subject read over, and that her character as to other engagements stands clear, and receiving permission to proceed in her proposals, is led in company with a female friend, appointed to attend her, into the men's apartment, where she again stands before the assembly, whilst her intended bridegroom informs the meeting that he still continues his intention of marriage and desires an answer. If there are no obstructions, they are permitted to proceed to the final accomplishment of the process before a public meeting for worship, and for which they are now pretty well prepared: but still the poor things are apt to speak so low that most of the assembly grow four or five inches taller, whilst they are endeavouring to hear the novel sound of two lovers swearing before the altar vows of eternal constancy and fidelity, in the presence of hundreds who watch to catch the soft accents, and steal a glance at the downcast eyes and virgin blushes of the trembling bride.

Mrs. Adson. I have often heard your manner of celebrating marriages commended as an effectual guard against clandestine matches. If there were no other medium but yours of being married, it would be an effectual bar; but as it is, those who would be imprudent,

enough to marry secretly, certainly will not hesitate at *going out in marriage*, as you call it; therefore, your regulation in that particular is of no use, because it does not operate at all on those it is designed to check, but all the weight of it comes on those who do not need it.

Edgar. If our regulation is good, and is rendered nugatory by there being other means of marrying, it is more consistent for you to alter and conform to us than for us to relax.

Mrs. Adson. I cannot tell how much Quaker to make of you, for it seems as if you take up either for or against them.

Edgar. I hope never to be against them, nor yet for them, in any thing in which they are wrong.

With this kind of conversation they made long evenings, and Edgar never retired without laying some hours to enjoy the reflection that he was daily gaining ground in the good graces of the mother of his Caroline, and the certainty of the attainment of the object which had so completely engrossed his soul. But these agreeable reveries were mingled with reflections on the weakness of human nature, which magnifies the value of objects when obstructions intervene, and soon become palled or insensible in the possession. He endeavoured, and almost vainly endeavoured, to divest himself of the idea of perfection in the object of his love, and to prepare himself for the developement of those frailties which familiarity and intimacy must in all characters disclose, although new beauties may continu-

ally overbalance, and an overweening partiality even convert foibles into graces. He did not wish to consider her perfection, as he was sensible such an idea must be the effect of an amorous hallucination; but he wished always to retain that respect for her superior virtues and accomplishments, which should compel him to look upon the counterparts of her character with liberality and indulgence, or place them as an off-set against what might exist of the same nature in himself.

On returning one evening from the village, to spend as usual the night at Adsonville, he had the satisfaction of taking with him from the post-office, a letter post marked Plain Ville, which Mrs. Adson read as follows:

My better Half,

I arrived here last evening, and found our beloved daughters both well; Caroline has not been at school since Mr. F. left here, as she will not be separated from Penelope, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, under the apprehension that Penelope is soon to leave them, are not willing to let her be absent. We have found our lost child, but in return are to lose them both. The Captain and Penelope have not only been acquainted with each other, but much attached for several years, he having boarded with Mr. S. when attending school: and to interpose any further obstructions in the way of Caroline and Mr. E. would be ungenerous in the extreme. My object is accomplished in the Captain's union with Penelope: you know

very well that I have never had any personal objections to Edgar, but have always united with the general sentiment as to his character; I believe no man would scorn a mean action more than he would; but I knew that I must provide for the Captain as my own son, let him marry where he would; and I supposed that if he married my only daughter, I could concentrate all my paternal care to the same object; but fate has decided otherwise, and with it I have no cause nor disposition to repine. I shall not attempt to say what Penelope is, you shall soon see her. You must prepare for much to be done at Adsonville on our return, as the girls will make such purchases at Albany as shall be necessary for their bridal suits. I have offered to settle for the care and education of Penelope, but I find it will give offence to repeat the offer; on the contrary they still intend to make her their heir on condition of her returning to Plain Ville, in a reasonable time after her marriage, and this is decidedly her wish, and what I think we cannot object to. Caroline has consented to it upon condition of her making a visit to the north once a year in return for one from her as often. Penelope cannot realise me as her father, but she is of a sociable and familiar habit, more than Caroline—looks extremely like her, but not quite so delicate, outweighing her a few pounds: if they had not each of them another friend, Penelope one in the Captain, and Caroline one in Edgar, I do not believe they could ever be persuaded again to

separate. "You must not expect us before the fourth of next month, when I anticipate that a few weeks will be spent at Adsonville, of a character not to be expected to continue, nor ever recur in the chequered scene of life.— Mr. and Mrs. Smith will accompany us.

I remain ever yours, till death,

J. ADSON.

On their way home, Mr. Adson, with his daughters, again lodged with the family where Edgar had seen Caroline at the window, and Emeline was soon satisfied of the mistake she had made on the mountain: during the evening a young man entered who, notwithstanding he was enveloped in his great coat and fur cap, appeared to be immediately recognized and modestly welcomed by the family: he laid aside his over-coat and cap with some appearance of bashfulness, and was by Emeline introduced to Mr. Adson, and then to Caroline and Penelope; he was dressed neatly, but still there was something in his appearance which bespoke him not a townsman; he frequently fixed his eyes studiously on Caroline, and after she had heard his voice her eyes often met his; during the evening when the younger part of the company were by themselves, he arose and taking Emeline by the hand he led her up to Caroline, saying, "Emeline, you know I told you that my love had been put to a severe test, and you now see the object that had well nigh proved fatal to my fidelity." Caroline blushed deep as scarlet, but her surprise and confusion did not prevent

her from recognising him as her gallant deliverer, with whom she rode the race from Plain Ville to the school; before she could speak, however, to ward off his compliment, Emeline answered him pleasantly, that if he could have remained unmoved by so much excellence, she herself could never have taken a pride in his taste; but, said she, it would have been in vain, and you would soon have renounced all hope when you came to see, as I have, with whom you would have to contend. Caroline stammered, and never commenced speaking so awkwardly, but at length said, "I thought I recollected your voice, I perceive you are the gentleman to whom I am under such great obligations for assistance in a time of need. Your compliments I consider as reproaches, but I justly deserve them; indeed, Emeline, I must beg your pardon also; I treated him not only uncourteously but most ungratefully, but he is amply revenged on me by the mortification his generosity has made me suffer: if I thought there was any danger of your thinking him sincere, I could convince you he means it only as irony." Nay, said Emeline, do not suppose that, for he has informed me before of every circumstance, and as warmly commended you then as now to your face. Caroline replied, "I have often, very often thought of his kindness, and desired that he might be as he deserved, and I now discover that I may make myself easy on that head." Emeline thanked her for that compliment, and the discourse opened the way for Penelope's humor and jokes, which being caught by the whole

company, the evening passed off with uncommon pleasantry ; and if the young gentleman had anticipated the exclusive company of his betrothed Emeline, he was disappointed, for they shared it with him, until the remnant only of a long night was left for repose.

The fourth of December arrived, and by twelve o'clock fires were made in every room in the house, and the stables prepared for the reception of the horses, and the afternoon spent in watching at the windows for their first appearance. The day was cold and very blustering, the sun unveiled seemed to look on without influencing the weather, and it was not until after he had trembled on the summit of the western ridge, and sunk behind it, and when darkness began to cower around the dismantled forest, and the winds to whistle with more vehemence, that the sleighs were observed to drive down the lane from the main road, from which the brilliant windows, contrasted with the surrounding shade, appeared illuminated and smiling in expectation of their arrival. Many of the neighbors were assembled in expectation of seeing the long lost Penelope; who, with Caroline enveloped in furs, and led by Edgar, entered through the crowd in the hall, and were introduced into Mrs. Adson's arms. He assisted in disengaging Caroline of the supernumerary robes, which the extremity of the weather had rendered necessary, and saw her come forth, like a sparkling ruby, with the appearance of the most perfect health, and her sweet countenance flushed with the stimulus of the keen

air; she addressed Edgar familiarly, and with an expressive look of pleasure at seeing him there, and then with an arm around each, interposed her head between her mother and Penelope, and not until an hour had elapsed were they all sufficiently composed for Caroline, in a large well lighted and warm room, to receive successively her neighbors and young friends, and introduce them to her sister Penelope. This was performed with much ease and grace, and unfeigned pleasure; but when she led her up to Edgar's father and mother, (who were there to receive their brother and sister S.) she evidently manifested a delicate and respectful embarrassment, which secretly stirred in their minds the sensation of pride at the thought of the near relationship to them in which she was soon to stand.

CHAPTER IX.

“Thou, for my sake, at Alla’s shrine,
“And I at any god’s for thine.”

Moore.

CAROLINE regulated her conduct towards Edgar as her best friend. one for whom she entertained not only the tribute of respect and esteem, but that love and confidence which changed the distance those sentiments create into innocent freedom and familiarity ; and he was not backward to urge the immediate accomplishment of their marriage, to which no party now objected, and which alone appeared wanting to crown him with the summit of earthly happiness. The consent of his parents was the only thing that Caroline waited for to appoint the day : this had been tacitly given, but openly could not be done, as their laws were directly against it. Edgar had shewn them Caroline’s letter to Maria, and informed them further of her sentiments, with which they were much delighted, nor could they condemn her for deciding on not requesting to be received a member, when it would appear as if her main object was to facilitate her mar-

riage with Edgar. After some hesitation, at Edgar's request, she wrote the following note.

Most honoured and respected Friends,

You will forgive my presumption, if I inform you that I have had the happiness of becoming acquainted with your worthy son, and the honor of inspiring him, as he assures me, with sentiments of partiality and regard, inso-much as for him repeatedly and earnestly to solicit my consent to become his. You will excuse me if I ingenuously confess that nothing but your approbation is wanting to decide me; if that is not granted, no prospect of happiness shall ever induce me to be accessory to his becoming disgraced in your opinion. I hope I shall never interpose in the way of his duty to his parents or his religion; I am acquainted with the regulations of your Society and respect them; if you cannot give your consent, you can advise me how to act, and it shall have the full weight which your rights and character so eminently deserve. Your noticing this so far as to condescend to answer it, will confer an infinite obligation on your unworthy humble servant.

CAROLINE ADSON.

Mr. and Mrs. F.

*Answer of Edgar's Parents to Caroline's
Letter.*

12th Mo. 30th.

Dear Caroline,

WE last evening received thy very acceptable and respectful letter, and in return assure thee that Edgar's parents have nothing personal against the one he has selected as a companion; on the contrary they rejoice in the prospect of his approaching happiness. They however cannot conceal that the circumstance of her not being a member of our Society, will prevent an open and spontaneous manifestation of our unity, before you are married, for fear of wounding the feelings of our friends, who consider it a matter of grief, for one of their members to depart from the rules of Society, in this as well as any other particular; and it would not appear right for some of us to openly advance, what the others are grieved at. But whatever formalities these considerations may deter us from at the present time, shall be compensated for by the most unremitting attention, and parental regard, through the remainder of our lives; therefore, with the most sincere desires that your wishes and expectations may be all realised, we remain thy assured friends.

J. AND C. F.

Caroline Adson.

At the first hasty glance which Caroline gave this answer to her letter, she felt as if it was a little equivocal, and thought she had a right to wait for ample consent; but upon the whole concluded that they had said all that in their circumstances could be expected, and soon convinced her parents to the same effect.

Edgar now saw every obstruction removed, and the object of his intemperate passion about to crown his earthly happiness: his mind again attained to the level of his usual philosophical temperature, awake and sensitive to every real source of delight and happiness, without expecting what was unreasonable, or suffering it to be disturbed by trifling incidents, unavoidably concomitant to an earthly and imperfect sphere. In Caroline he possessed the richest flower in the garden of beauty and intelligence: such was the general conviction of all her acquaintance. His own superiority gave him interest in the hearts of young and old, and prevented him from being an object of envy; every neighbor seemed to partake more or less in the happiness which they considered as the natural result of the union of so many charms and virtues. Edgar himself, to judge by his demeanor, was the best affected by his situation—conscious that he had obtained a splendid prize, he scorned every thing like an affectation of triumph or selfishness; he manifested more than ordinary affability and attention to other ladies who happened to be in his company, lest his partiality to Caroline should subject him to inadvertent neglect of others, who in their sphere

were equally worthy. Caroline also conducted with the greatest propriety, although it cannot be denied that she manifested something a little nearer to fondness than Edgar; but this might be accounted for, upon other grounds than the comparative weakness of her sex. He had long indulged the feverish passion and become familiar with its palpitating symptoms, and learned to control, or at least to disguise them, from the scrutiny of others not interested, to whom it is commonly disgusting.—Whilst to her, the sensation was a perfect novelty: it is true, she had long cherished an esteem for Edgar, and felt peculiarly pleased with his company, and magnified his attention and solicitude for her into something that required her gratitude; yet love she prudently refused to listen to, until his persevering suit, his following her to such a distance, his alarming sickness as a consequence, and his fortunate discovery of her long lost sister, so affected her in the absence of, and at a distance from, her relations, that she surrendered her destiny to be united inseparably to his. Accustomed before to delight in the most affectionate disposition towards her parents and relatives, she now viewed Edgar as added to the number, and consequently as an important addition to her happiness, and for the exercise of those endearing duties and charities, which the inimitable blandishments of her mind and person so peculiarly qualified her to dispense.

It being contrary to the rules of the Friends to attend a ceremony accomplished by a clergy-

gyman, for the accommodation of Edgar's parents and friends, their marriage, with that of the Captain and Penelope, was celebrated at the house of Mr. Adson, in a manner approaching the Quaker form—the father of the bride, taking her by the hand, whilst the parties were standing, asked her intended husband, if he accepted of her as his lawful spouse, and if he promised to love, cherish and provide, &c. &c. for her until death ; on his answering in the affirmative, he then asked the bride if she consented to become his wife, and promised on her part as he had on his, and on her nodding assent he placed her hand in his, and gave them his benediction : the parties then took their seats and signed an article to the same effect of their verbal promises, stating the time and place, &c. which their friends present signed their names to as witnesses ; the instrument was then to be recorded in the records of the county clerk's office. This novel method of tying the hymeneal knot was very pleasing to the young company who took great satisfaction in declaring they would never be married any other way.

Friend Smith and his wife were quite out of their element so far from home, and soon returned to Plainville, leaving Penelope and the Captain to follow in the spring, where he, renouncing his military profession, they added another family to that insulated and delightful village, which seemed to be scarcely affected with either the depravity, or consequent misery which accrued to the world from our forefather's most fatal repast.

Edgar not feeling himself at liberty to make any acknowledgment to the Meeting, was with much reluctance on their part *disowned from being any longer a member with them*—for which, knowing they were bound to proceed more from their laws than from their inclination, he never harbored any resentment, and his former friends continued their intimacy and partiality towards him, which appeared as if softened with additional respect and tenderness, from a secret suspicion, if not consciousness, of his having been an innocent offender of their discipline : and they yet anxiously expect his return ; in this there is some danger of their being disappointed, as he appears perfectly contented in his situation, left to the endearing delights of his domestic circle, and to the impartial distribution of his charity, unconfined to any other limits than his ability to dispense, without regard to sect or denomination. His partiality, however, for the tenets and practices of the religion in which he was educated, has still considerable influence with him, and his house in the common resort of travelling preachers of that communion, who associate with him and Caroline, with as little reserve as if they were both *members*.

This favored pair continue to enjoy as much happiness as this state of existence is calculated or designed to dispense; yet they never appear to wish ostentatiously to impose a consciousness or shew of their property on others less fortunate : they are never under the necessity of forming or uniting in parties for the

attainment of pleasure, for it is the constant companion of their domestic duties. Edgar spends the morning of each day in the most unremitting attention to his business (to which he is much habituated) which gives him the close to devote uninterruptedly to such pursuits as his romantic and philosophic disposition incline him to; and Caroline, from the abundance of this world's goods with which she was blessed, being freed from much care, hath taken into her family an unfortunate but worthy and capable widow, who manages her family concerns with the utmost skill and faithfulness, subject however to the frequent inspection and oversight of the prudent and amiable mistress, who is studious to manifest by her example, that the peace and happiness of a family depends not so much on abundance of wealth, as in order, economy and regularity of its several departments; every thing is so conducted as to prevent hurry, surprise or confusion on slight occasions, and all causes of petulance from trivial neglects avoided: at a seasonable hour all under her hospitable and extensive roof are comfortably disposed to rest before she retires to hers, and in the morning as much punctuality is attended to in rising, and "her household has their meat in due season." Affable, kind, condescending and benevolent to all, their relations, to the most remote branches, rich or poor, engage their affectionate dispositions, which cover all their failings, whatever they may be, and the unfortunate and necessitous always receive, if not pecuniary relief, yet the wine and oil of

sympathy, consolation and encouragement; private visits to the houses of such, evening walks, and sometimes even a fishing excursion, the library, garden, a month in each year spent at Plainville, in return for one at Adsonville, by Penelope, constitute the chief diversions of the amiable, benevolent and philosophical Caroline.

The last time I saw her was in the early part of a day in May, the spring succeeding the one after her marriage. As I entered her extensive grassy and shaded door yard, I discovered her down upon the grass in one corner, where high and heavily loaded bushes of deep red, and pure white roses screened her from being discovered from the public way; not wishing to surprise her I made as much noise with my feet as the soft carpet would admit, but either from her attention being fixed upon the objects of her care, or supposing it to be the approach of one of the family, she did not notice me until I stood by her side, and discovered that she was endeavoring to learn some young ducks to help themselves to Indian meal; she blushed with all the loveliness that health adds to beauty, as she adjusted her neck-kerchief, which had been discomposed in nursing her fat boy: but, doubtless, she will be much surprised to find so trifling an incident mentioned in her history.

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